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CHRISTMAS-EVE.

WRITTEN FOR THE NEW YORK CLIPPER, BY E. NORMAN GUNNISON.

The eve before His birth draws nigh,
The falling of the Matron Year,
The perished days rest on their bier,
And Wintry stars bestud the sky.

The morning light shall surely bring
The dawn of Christmas, sweet but pale,
Across the valley and the dale—
Ring, bells of Christmas, loudly ring!

Ring in the Saviour, born anew,
The love He gave to all mankind,
The gift of sight unto the blind,
The light in darkened souls renew.

And though your tones may not recall
The friends we loved, the moments fled,
Or give to us again our dead,
Ring in the love of Christ to all!

O happy night, illustrious morn!
'Neath Bethlehem's sky with stars beset,
The purple brow of Olivet
With gladness glows where Christ was born.

His footsteps on Judea's plain,
And at Bethsaida's pool we see;
And by the Lake of Galilee,
The Christ of Nazareth again.

Not now He stands in earthly guise,
But, in the outer courts of prayer,
The healing of His robe is there,
Although unseen of human eyes.

The seamless garment we may feel,
And human cares and human fears,
The wounding of our bitter tears,
It has not lost the power to heal.

Across our happy Christmas-sky
We hear, as audibly as then,
The angels' song—"Good-will to men!"
"Jesus of Nazareth passeth by!"

O stars that glow o'er Bethlehem's plain,
Burn in each human heart anew,
And bring the Christ-child to our view;
The Christ of Bethlehem, born again.

So we the Christmas-time shall keep,
And trust him for all coming time;
Until, within a brighter clime,
He giveth His beloved sleep.

CROOKED CALEB.

A STORY FOR THE CHRISTMAS TIME.

WRITTEN FOR THE NEW YORK CLIPPER, BY VANDYKE BROWN.

In his younger days Caleb Crook was a tall, straight man, with a ruddy face, a ringing laugh and a merry twinkle in his eye. Those who knew him best predicted for him a brilliant career. They said that Caleb was destined to make his mark in the world, that he would become rich and famous, and that propitious Fate would smile upon him through all his life. These predictions were made in a kindly spirit, and the fact that they did not prove true was no fault of Caleb's early friends. It was not to be expected that they could foresee the many misfortunes which were destined to fall to the lot of the young man whose future seemed so full of promise. Nobody, of course, could tell beforehand that by an unlucky circumstance he was to meet with an injury of the spine which left him deformed for life. Neither could anybody have told how the woman whom he loved was to die on the very day when she was to have become Caleb's wife; nor how an unlucky speculation should have swallowed up his comfortable little fortune, and left him without a dollar in the world. And yet these black clouds of misfortune followed each other in quick succession. So that, at the age of twenty-eight, Caleb Crook, who two years before was basking in the sunshine of prosperity, became a heart-broken man. With his deformed body, his thin, white face, his deep-sunken eyes and his gloomy spirits, it was difficult to recognize the hopeful, ambitious, defiant man for whom his friends had prophesied such glorious achievements. Penniless, despondent, and stricken with grief, he went forth from the village which had been his life-long home, to wage an uneven contest against the great, bustling world. He kept the history of his life locked up in his own breast. He made few acquaintances, and still fewer friends. His violin, which in happier times he had learned to play with tolerable skill, now became his sole means of support. And by some odd freak of men's tongues, his name was twisted about, and he came to be known—where known at all—as "Crooked Caleb."

Into a single paragraph I have put all the facts which I learned respecting a curious old man, after I had known him for many months. He was chary of his confidence, and only at long intervals did he choose to lift the veil and reveal to me a momentary glimpse of his past history. Then always he appeared to regret his outburst of candor, and the veil was dropped as suddenly as it had been raised. I remember, distinctly enough, the first time that I ever spoke to Crooked Caleb. It was one day at rehearsal, between the first and second acts of "The School for Scandal," when he came behind the fly, where I was standing in conversation with Miss Dashley, our leading-lady. I had seen him two or three times before that and had been attracted towards him, both because of his bodily deformity and the peculiar expression of sadness which rested upon his pinched features. He had come upon the stage that morning during rehearsal in search of a piece of resin for his fiddle-bow, and Miss Dashley took the opportunity to introduce him to me.

"Caleb," said she, "this is Mr. Danforth, who has recently joined the company. Mr. Danforth, let me make you acquainted with Caleb, one of the violin-players in the orchestra—an excellent musician and a thoroughbred gentleman."

"I am very glad to know you, Mr. Caleb," said I, extending my hand.

He bowed, and a faint flush mounted to his pale cheek as he rejoined:

"Crooked Caleb, sir, not mister. Everybody calls me Crooked Caleb."

It was somewhat embarrassing to hear him thus refer to his own misfortune, but I sought to make the best of it by adding:

"Well, Caleb, if 'Crooked' is the more familiar way of addressing you, I shall endeavor to get the name straight hereafter. I am very fond of the violin, and hope we shall be the best of friends."

Again he bowed, and again the color came into his cheek, as he answered:

"I am not an excellent musician, as Miss Dashley has been complimentary enough to say; I am but a very poor performer, sir."

"There, there," interrupted the lady with a merry laugh, "you mustn't say that, Caleb. Everybody knows that you can play the fiddle divinely!"

"So divinely that I am permitted to play second to Mr. Heinrich's first," he answered, with a bitterness of tone which did not escape me.

"But you'll be the leader one of these days, Caleb," continued Miss Dashley good-humoredly.

"Of course you will," said I, warmly. "We all have to work our way up, and slowly enough at that. Here am I, glad to get an engagement as general utility."

"Yes," rejoined Crooked Caleb sadly, "but you are a young man and I am an old one. You are beginning the race and I have wellnigh ended it. In a dozen years you may be at the top of your profession; but as for me—I have been playing second fiddle for thirty years, and I shall continue to do so until I die!"

And with this, Crooked Caleb turned upon his heel and walked away.

That my little story may be the better understood, it is, perhaps, proper that I should offer some words of explanation with regard to myself. At the time of which I am writing, now more than a dozen years ago, I had achieved very little of success in my chosen profession. I do not mean to imply that I have since won any distinguished triumphs, or that I have soared into the atmosphere of theatric stars; but my position on the stage, such as it is, has been attained only by patient and laborious toil. I came of good dramatic stock, and I inherited something of the indomitable spirit of my father, and more of the impetuosity of my mother.

What I considered a very advantageous position presented itself to me in the Fall of 1864, under the management of Joseph Watson. That genial gentleman and successful manager had secured an excellent company, with which he proposed to make an extended tour through the western circuits, presenting a number of the standard English comedies. My engagement covered a period of six months, beginning on the fifteenth of September. I knew that I should be cast for minor parts only, but I knew also that Joseph Watson was a man quick to appreciate honest effort and ready always to reward merit. So I counted myself fortunate in receiving a favorable reply to my application for the position of general utility in the Watson Comedy Company; and I responded promptly to the call which appeared in the columns of *The Weekly Footlight*, inviting the ladies and gentlemen engaged to travel under the management of Mr. Joseph Watson, "to meet on the stage of the Arden Theatre at eleven o'clock of Friday next." It was there that I first saw Crooked Caleb, who was to form one of the Watson Comedy Company's orchestra. And it was there, also, that I first saw Kate Dashley, without whom this Christmas story had not been written.

Looking back now through the dozen years that have rolled away, I see her still, as grandly beautiful as on that September morning when she first dazzled my eyes and thrilled me with the magic of her voice. Never, before or since, have I seen another face so perfect as her's. The marvelous regularity of features, the exquisite delicacy of color, the small, mobile mouth, the glorious nut-brown hair, the large lustrous eyes—all these combined to make Kate Dashley surpassingly beautiful. Her superbly-rounded figure would have served as a companion-piece to Powers' Greek Slave. And her voice—no woman was ever blessed with such a voice before. Its every tone was music, and words of commonest use caught a new significance when spoken by her lips. She could make more of the little monosyllable "yes" than could anybody else of a ten-worded sentence. And her "no"—ah! well, it was her "no" which made a tragedy out of that which seemed a farce!

I do not think that Kate Dashley was a great actress. She essayed great characters, it is true, and she played them always gracefully and sometimes forcibly; but she failed in the power to comprehend, rather than in the ability to execute. Her voice, her carriage, her movement—all these were as nearly perfect as they well could be. What was it then that she lacked—the something which separated her from the domain of true art? Many times I put that question to myself as I watched her upon the stage; but I could not then find a satisfactory answer to the puzzling inquiry. Grown wiser now I can solve the problem in a single line.

Kate Dashley lacked a heart.

The Watson Comedy Company opened the season of 1864-5 in Cincinnati, playing one week to excellent houses. Before the expiration of that time I awoke to a realizing consciousness of the fact that I was desperately in love with Kate Dashley. This may, in part, have accounted for the conversation which I held on the night of our closing performance in Cincinnati with Crooked Caleb. He and I had found accommodations under the same roof, and as we walked along together on that Saturday night I said to him:

"What do you think of our leading lady, Caleb?"

He turned his pale face full upon me, which, in the uncertain light of the moon, seemed even more haggard than usual, and answered somewhat sharply:

"What do I think of her? I think she is a magnificent creature without a heart!"

His words, as well as the bitter tone in which they were uttered, surprised and startled me. I had put the question with no other purpose than that of hearing some one besides myself praise the beauty of Miss Dashley. I really cared very little what Crooked Caleb's opinion of the lady might be, andhad introduced her name simply because her image filled my mind. Assuming, as a matter of course, that my companion would agree with me in pronouncing a verdict wholly in favor of her loveliness and grace, I was vexed to hear him make such an unexpected reply.

"You do her injustice, I'm sure," said I warmly. "No woman of her culture and beauty—I do not mean physical beauty alone — could be without a heart."

"How long have you known her?" he asked quietly.

"I never saw her until last week," I answered; "but to see her once is enough to convince any man that she is not only beautiful, but high-minded and true."

Crooked Caleb laughed—a low, hard laugh, which grated on theear unpleasantly.

"You are a very wise young man, Mr. Danforth, if you can read a woman's heart in a week. Very wise indeed."

"How long have you known her?" I inquired, eager to learn something of the life of this woman whose beauty so thrilled and fascinatedme. "Did you ever see her before this season?"

"Did I ever see her?" he repeated, as if to himself. "Yes, I have seen her many, many times. I have known her a long while—a very long while, Mr. Danforth. And I have had abundant opportunity to judge of her character."

"And having enjoyed this opportunity you say that she is a magnificent creature without a heart?"

"Without a heart!" he echoed, and then fell into a silence which I did not deem it wise to intrude upon by any further questioning.

It may have been a month after this conversation with Crooked Caleb, that I took occasion one evening to speak to Kate Dashley concerning the odd little fiddler. During that month my passion had grown more intense and absorbing, until it threatened to consume all other thoughts and aspirations. I was filled with a constant feeling of restlessness, and could find no peace nor pleasure save in the presence of the woman whom I adored. Our acquaintance by this time had ripened into an intimacy, yet I had never mentioned the subject of love to Kate Dashley. Basking in the sunshine of her smiles, I was content to feed my passion upon such unsubstantial trifles as a look, a sigh, or a pressure of the hand. These satisfied me for the time; they probably more than satisfied the young lady herself. On the evening to which I have made reference—we were playing, if I remember rightly, in Detroit—I escorted Miss Dashley, at the conclusion of the performance, from the theatre to the hotel. This pleasurable task had fallen to my lot a number of times since we had left Cincinnati. She had been more than usually gracious to me that night, and it may have been her cordiality of manner which led me to say:

"Miss Dashley, our old friend Caleb is an old acquaintance of yours, is he not?"

"Did you learn that from him?" she asked.

"Well, yes, he told me that he had known you for a considerable length of time."

"What else did he tell you concerning me?"

I felt rather than saw her lustrous eyes fixed full upon my face, and I thanked the darkness which concealed a possible blush, as I answered:

"Nothing."

"Not a word?"

"Not a word!"

She was silent for a moment or two, and then added:

"Yes; Crooked Caleb has known me for a long time. He knew me when I was a little girl, and before I went upon the stage. Did he tell you that?"

"He did not," I answered with all candor.

"He has been very kind to me, and I am sure that I am thankful for what he has done in my behalf. I hate ingratitude above all things, don't you, Mr. Danforth?"

Of course I did, and of course I said that I did. And the beautiful woman at my side, giving just the slightest pressure to my arm, continued in her wondrously musical tone:

"I have always thought a great deal of Caleb. But for all that, I could not be expected to accept him as a lover."

"As a lover!" I repeated in amazement.

"Yes," she replied. "Crooked Caleb was foolish enough to fall in love with me. And because I refused to listen to his suit, he has been angry with me ever since."

"Ever since when?" I inquired.

"Two years ago, I think it was. He asked me to become his wife, and the idea struck me as so absurd that I laughed in his face. Perhaps it was that which wounded his feelings so deeply. I ought not to have turned his love into ridicule, I suppose; but really, Mr. Danforth, I couldn't help it. Not that I should wish to turn all love into ridicule, but ——"

Whether Kate Dashley finished that sentence or not I never knew. The delicate hint which she had thrown out afforded me such a golden opportunity of confessing my passion, that I seized upon it in hot haste, and poured into her listening ear the story of my absorbing love. I could see the color deepen in her face and feel her shapely hand tremble upon my arm; and when I had finished speaking she made answer in her melodious voice, saying:

"I have loved you from the first day that I saw you. My heart is wholly yours."

What shall I say of the weeks that followed that memorable night? I lived in a state of blissful exhilaration, oblivious to all passing events, unmindful of all worldly vexations, and conscious only—delightfully, supremely, perpetually conscious—that my love was returned. It had been arranged that Kate and I should be married in the Spring, immediately upon the expiration of our engagements with Mr. Watson. The company had met with uniform success, and everybody was in high spirits—everybody save Crooked Caleb. He had watched with jealous interest the progress of my suit, and, though I had not told him of its happy issue, I fancied that he construed aright my constant attentions to Miss Dashley, which had become a matter of general comment among the members of the company. My acquaintance with the deformed musician had continued to grow more intimate as the season progressed, and he had unfolded to me, at various times, those scraps of his personal history which I have woven into the opening paragraph of this story. With the single exception of Kate Dashley, Caleb and I talked together freely on all subjects; but the name of the woman whose accepted suitor I was had never been mentioned between us since that first conversation which I have already described. For my own part, I felt a delicacy about introducing a theme which I knew would be unpleasant to him; and perhaps out of regard for me, no less than for his own feelings, Crooked Caleb held his peace.

It so happened, however, that on Christmas-eve I went into Caleb's room before retiring for the night, and sat down, as I often did, to hear him talk or play upon the violin. We were in Cleveland, and were to give an extra matinee performance on the morrow. I had left Kate five minutes before and my lips were still glowing with the kiss she had imprinted upon them. I was in high spirits and laughed at poor Caleb's despondent face turned towards me as I entered the room.

"Cheer up, Caleb," said I, throwing myself into a chair at his side. "This isn't a night for the blues!"

"All nights are alike to me," answered sadly. "How late is it, Mr. Danforth?"

I looked at my watch and told him that it lacked half an hour of midnight.

"And it will be sixteen years to-morrow!" he muttered, resting his face upon his thin hands. "Mr. Danforth, do you ever drink brandy?"

"Very seldom," I replied. "Why do you ask?"

He rose up from his seat, turned the key of the door, and then, going to his overcoat, drew forth from one of the pockets a pint flask.

"This, they tell me, is very excellent liquor. Will you try a little of it?"

He filled a glass half full of the brandy and placed it upon the table.

"I think you will have to excuse me, Caleb," I said. "I shall wake up to-morrow with a headache if I drink that draught."

He raised the tumbler himself, and drained it as though it had been water. I had never seen him taste of intoxicating liquor before, and his strange manner made me a little nervous.

"Are you ill, Caleb?" I asked.

"No, not ill," he replied, resuming his seat and placing the flask upon the table within easy reach. "Not ill, Mr. Danforth, but there's something which I wish to tell you—something which I ought, perhaps, to have told you weeks ago."

I felt instinctively that the something which Crooked Caleb was about to tell me related to Kate Dashley. Why it was I cannot explain, but, looking into the haggard face of the deformed musician, I fancied I read my fate written therein—written in the deep lines and sunken eyes and bloodless lips. My heart, which five minutes before had been beating fast with hope, now weighed in my breast like a thing of lead. I bent forward to listen with terrible eagerness to Caleb's words.

"You love Kate Dashley," he began, speaking with apparent effort, yet distinctly. "You believe, no doubt, that she loves you."

"I do believe it," I said.

Crooked Caleb poured another draught of the brandy into the glass and drank it. Then he resumed:

"It is of Kate Dashley that I wish to speak. Let me tell you a little story. Thirty years ago, a broken-hearted man went forth from his native village in New England. Death had taken from him the woman he loved, and ill-fortune had made him not only a beggar, but a cripple for life. This heart-broken man wandered about from city to city, earning his bread by playing on the violin in theatres. He had no friends—no one to care whether he lived or died. One day, on the streets of New York, he came across a little girl who, like himself, earned her bread by playing on the fiddle. Like himself too, this little girl was a vagabond, without home or friends. The man's heart went out to her and he took her home to his own humble quarters. His love, which had been so long locked up in his own breast, poured itself out in a great flood on this little wanderer. She was marvelously pretty, quick-witted and intelligent. The man devoted all his leisure time to teaching her what he knew himself, and she was an apt scholar. When she was twelve years old he took her one day to the theatre. The play took such deep hold upon her mind that she begged to become an actress. So the man, finding that his young charge had many qualifications for the stage, resolved to train her for the profession which she yearned to follow. He spent four years in this task, and gave her such advantages as he could afford. Then she made her debut, and her beauty and voice secured for her immediate success. She was sixteen years old at that time, and seemed more like a woman than a girl. The musician's heart was so wrapped up in his treasure that the thought of losing her drove him almost wild. And it was in this wildness of despair that he proposed to make this young girl his wife. It was a foolish, an insane idea; but his life had been such a bitter disappointment that he clung to his new love with blind desperation. Out of pity—yes, let us hope that it was at least pity—the girl consented to marriage. A month later she became the wife of the deformed fiddler. She was beautiful, heartless and sixteen; he was poor, a cripple and fifty. The result of such a union could be only misery. In a little time the man discovered that the woman whom he had reared from childhood, for whom he had suffered and battled and toiled, upon whom he had showered his wealth of love, was absolutely without a heart."

Here Crooked Caleb paused long enough to take another drink of the brandy. When he spoke again, his voice was strangely hollow.

"The man, even then, could not turn aside from his idol. Without the form of a divorce he gave her the freedom she so coveted. It was agreed between them that their relations of man and wife were to cease. The fact of their marriage was to remain a buried secret. The woman was henceforth to do as she saw fit; and the man asked only the poor boon of staying by her side where he might watch the bright star, but never dare to approach it. It will be sixteen years ago to-morrow since that wretched old man found the homeless little girl wandering through the streets of New York. It is nearly eight years since he made that girl his wife. The fault, I think, was his rather than hers; and, if it was, God knows that he has paid the penalty! The man—Mr. Danforth—the man of whom I have told you is Crooked Caleb!"

"And the woman?" I asked, as in a dream.

"And the woman is Kate Dashley!"

Perhaps it was the brandy which I drank from the flask—a long, deep draught—which gave me strength to grope my way to my own room. Perhaps, too, it was the brandy which steadied my hand while I wrote a letter to the woman who was my promised wife—a letter, releasing her from her vows, but containing no word of censure. And then, it may have been the desire for more brandy that led me to go forth from the hotel, and pace the streets of the city for many weary hours, until the bells rang out their Christmas chimes, and until the eastern sky flushed with the first faint streaks of dawning day. I did not mark the flight of time, nor feel the cold. To and fro I walked, with burning brain and heart benumbed. And on that Christmas morn I could think of no peace on earth—I could feel no goodwill toward men.

It was broad daylight when I entered again the office of the hotel.

"You are wanted in Number Thirty-nine," said the clerk.

I knew that was Caleb's room, and fancied that he had sent for me. But when I entered Number Thirty-nine I found the members of the company assembled, with a physician and several of the attaches of the hotel, and they were looking with sad faces towards the bed, and speaking in subdued tones. I, too, looked towards the bed. And there, peaceful in death, I saw the face of Crooked Caleb, while the physician bent over the body to examine more closely the bullet-wound in his breast.

"To think that he should have shot himself on Christmas-day!" I heard someone whisper.

And then I knew that Crooked Caleb had taken his own life because of a beautiful creature without a heart!

CHRISTMAS AT HOME.

THE CONFIDENTIAL REVELATION.

[A few days before Christmas mamma receives an important communication from her two little girls.]

FIRST LITTLE GIRL.—We've got a secret for you, but we shan't tell you.
SECOND LITTLE GIRL.—Not till Christmas.
FIRST LITTLE GIRL.—And not then neither, till we've bought it!

THE SECRET OUT.

[The two little girls who were going to give their mamma a Christms present, have given it. This is what occurred.]

FIRST LITTLE GIRL.—Here's a present! Bought it with our own money!
SECOND LITTLE GIRL.—Yes, I gave papa a new dime out of my own purse for it.
FIRST LITTLE GIRL.—Oh, yes, I dare say! But I gave a new cent!
[The present only cost twenty-five dollars. Papa found the difference.]

"'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS."

BY CLEMENT C. MOORE.

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced through their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long Winter's nap—
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter;
Away to the window I flew like a flash
Tore open the shutters, and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew, in a moment, it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled and shouted and called them by name:
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer! now, Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donder and Blixen!
To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
Now, dash away, dash away, dash away, all!"
As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle mount to the sky,
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys and St. Nicholas too.
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.
His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples—how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry,
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow.
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook, when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed, when I saw him, in spite of myself.
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
He spake not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And, laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew, like the down of a thistle;
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight:
"Mery Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"

CHRISTMAS IN "OLD VIRGINIA."

WRITTEN FOR THE NEW YORK CLIPPER, BY HELEN LUQUEER

"No use a-talkin', Pomp. All I kin say jest makes no difference. Missus am determined she won't have no Christmas, and no fuss and no fixin' nohow, and that ar big, struttin' gobbler a-beggin' to be stuffed and roasted."

"Don't wonda, Dinah. How kin she be a-feastin'? Jest she and ole master in this ar big, empty house, and thar only chile, poor young Massa George, a-sleepin' up North thar in his grave. Times is changed, ole woman. You and me and all would be contented to stick by de ole place through thick and thin. Them ar desarted quarters gives Massa Bolton de blues, same as it does dis chile; ebry time he looks dat way."

"Wal, dar's no use a-cryin' fer spilt milk. Haint I seen my own chil'en skattered, I'd like tu know? Some am in der graves, and some de Lor' only knows whar. Ef dey am livin' free, de Lor Almighty be tanked. But we's still on dis arth, and in ole Wirginny at dat, and de Lor' he's jest as kind and marcyful as ebber, and ebry libin' creatur ought to make somethin' ob de day ob His birth."

"Ye's allers right, honey; but ef de heart's as heavy as lead, dar's no use tryin'. I hain't goin' ter argufy de question. If masser and missus 'ud make a big dinner fur all de gentry like dey use'd tu, 'twould seem jest like puttin' posies ober a grave."

"It nebber done me no good ter see posies onter a grave, fer I couldn't help thinkin' ob de worms an' corruption down under 'em."

Old Uncle Pompey knocked the ashes out of his pipe against the bright handirons that held up a blazing backlog in the ample kitchen of the Bolton homestead, and "toted" himself away, knowing the uselessness of an answer.

In another part of the house, through a long, wide hall, and up a fine walnut staircase, upon the sunny side, was the sitting and bedroom of Mrs. Bolton, opening upon a broad verandah, sustained by Corinthian pillars, running from the ground to the roof.

Mrs. Bolton was a woman of about forty-five, with remnants of great beauty. But she was evidently aged before her time, as the silver threads in her dark hair fully attested. She sat beside a petite marble-table, upon which glowed a costly astral-lamp, looking like one who had fought fate in place of yielding to its inexorable decrees. Her head rested against the back of a high-cushioned chair, and her thin, white hands were crossed in her lap. She had been weeping bitterly. Old Dinah had forced her to remember what she had struggled hard to forget—that this was Christmas Eve, and that the morrow would be a day of rejoicing and goodcheer the Christian world over.

Since the war, when the slaves were scattered and possessions squandered, her only son marched away to battle, was captured and taken North, and the news of his death in prison months afterwards, there had been closed shutters and deep mourning in the Bolton mansion, which from its isolated position had escaped the ravages of war.

Two years had passed, but the garments of Mrs. Bolton were as black as ever. She had become a faded, dying woman, refusing to be comforted. Her husband was made of sterner stuff. Though gray-haired and with deep lines in his face, he was still hale, hearty and genial, and would remain hospitable in the face of all reverses and sorrows but for his lady wife.

He sat opposite her upon this sad Christmas evening, attempting to read, but she forced memories upon him that would not be quieted until he had laid down even a favorite author, and his fine face was overshadowed and gloomy. In reply to some remark she had made, he answered:

"I am somewhat of Old Dinah's opinion. We are on the earth and in old Virginia, and that is something to be thankful for. If you, my love, only make up your mind to the inevitable, and take an interest in life by making the best of it, you would soon be well and strong again, and, I will not say happy, but cheerful."

"How little, Charles, you know a mother's heart. Alas! mine is buried in the grave of my son," and tears flowed afresh.

Mr. Bolton closed his book with a sigh.

"I think I appreciate your loss since I share it, Elsie," he said; "but a fountain of tears will not restore our son. Yet we have much to be thankful for. Our hearthstone and rooftree are left us. Let us from this hour brighten it as best we can, and cease useless repining."

Wordless and in tears, the lady arose, retired to her bedroom, and that bright Christmas-eve was given to the sorrow that was fast wearing away her life.

Meanwhile old Pomp had knocked the ashes from his pipe simultaneously with a knock upon the door; and, before he could move his stiffened limbs, Dinah had forestalled him, opened the door, and let in a flood of moonlight, a gust of cutting north wind and a stranger—tall, straight and of noble presence. She shut out the cold, and held up her flickering tallow-candle to scan the face of the intruder. The next moment candle and candlestick went down with a crash upon the hearth, her arms around the neck of the stranger, and her turbaned head upon his breast, while she cried out, amid gushing tears:

"Praise de Lor'! De lost am found! De dead am alive! O Pomp! haint ye no eyes? Can't ye see it am Massa George 'n nobody else?" Then she lifted her head, and turned upon her spouse in sudden wrath: "Haint ye no welcome fer de chile? Dar ye stan' an star like ye seen a ghost an' wid yer ole knees a-knocking together like a couple o' poplar-limbs!"

Stimulated by her reproof, the old man gathered his scattered senses, and, grasping his young master's hand, bedewed it with tears.

"I dun gon clar out of my senses, Massa George," he said, "couldn't bleve my ole eyes. De Lor' lub yer. Run, Dinah, an' bring de massa an missus. Dey'll go clar mad wid joy."

"Hush, chile," answered his wife. "Dos yer want ter kill de missus on de spot? She dun gets palpitation of de heart ebry time Massa George's name am heard."

George Bolton, coming to his home after being as one dead to it so long, and receiving such an over whelming welcome from the old and faithful servants, was unmanned and for a little while speechless. But Dinah placed him in the chair by the fire which Pompey had vacated, talking to him all the time as she had done in his childhood.

"Yer hungry and cold, chile; but dars somethin ter eat in de ole house yet, honey, and ole Dinah haint furgot how ter cook."

"I want nothing, Dinah. I have had supper."

"Whar, honey?"

"At the hotel in the village."

"Massa George, did yer dun forgit that yer had a home ob yer own?" exclaimed she in indignant protest.

"No, Dinah. I could never forget that; but I reached the village late, and felt it would not answer to appear too abruptly to my mother. So I waited until there would be no chance of meeting anyone but you and Pompey. You see I learned all about the affairs here at the village."

"Wal, honey, I muss dun go up and git yer own pretty room in order fer yer to sleep in, an' build up a fire, it am so damp an' cold arter bein' shut up so long."

"Sit down, Dinah. There's time enough for that. I shall go back to the village to sleep to-night. I left my wife there."

"Wife, honey!" exclaimed the good old creature, holding up her hands and rolling her eyes until nothing but the whites were visible. "Angel Gabriel! ef de chile haint dun gon an' bring a Northern wife doun heah. An' missus hates 'em worse nor pizen."

"Yer dun jess what ye'd a right tu!" put in old Pomp sympathetically.

"Hole yer tongue!" commanded Dinah. "Much ye know 'bout it. Missus had rather see her boy in de grave, whar she t'inks he am dis blessed moment, den to see him a-bringing a Northern wife down heah."

"I want you to break all this to her as gently as possible," said George Bolton. "But tell my father first. I am certain of his forgiveness."

"How could you do it, honey? An' how could ye let us dun cry our eyes out t'inkin you dead!"

"As you know, I was taken prisoner and sent North. There I became very ill and was placed in a hospital, and after a time given up to die. The war ended and peace was declared. A comrade was about to return home, and received my dying message to my parents. Great tenacity of life and a splendid constitution were in my favor, and at last I recovered, though not until I had laid many weeks wavering in the balance. A physician of the institution by his kindness and care saved me; and, taking a fancy to me, he invited me to his own house to pass my convalescence. I can never make you understand, my good Dinah, how very weak I was—how like coming back from death it appeared."

"De good Lor' be praised!" she exclaimed, clasping her hands in the most fervent manner.

"Doctor Van Vecten and his wife and daughter tended me with the most loving care. The days drifted past as a dream, and when you had mourned me as dead for months I just began to realize that I ought to have someone write for me. But as it had been neglected so long, I resolved to wait until I was sufficiently strong, and surprise you all by coming home unexpectedly. The doctor was anxious for me to settle North, saying the South was no place for a young man to rise so soon after its fearful prostration—that, of course, our property had met the fate of the rest. He saw that his daughter Helen and I loved each other—indeed, had given his consent to our union. But we could not get married until my ability to support a wife had been tested. Accordingly, I accepted a lucrative position he secured me. Knowing the prejudices of my parents against such a course, and their aristocratic notions about working, and, fearing they might throw some obstacles in the way of my Northern marriage, I resolved to wait a year longer, or until I had secured my sweet Helen as wife. That is my story, Dinah, and I have returned with her to celebrate a real old-fashioned Christmas with you all, if she is welcome to the homestead. But I will never consent to sit at my father's table as his son unless my Helen comes as his daughter. She is lovely, refined and beautiful. Tell them this, my good Dinah. It is late now, and I must go. In the morning, I will return if they send a messenger for us. If not, this will be my last visit. Good-night Dinah. Good-night Pompey. God bless you both!"

The eyes of Dinah were raining tears as she closed the door upon "her chile," with many assurances.

"Yer needn't fear, honey. God Almighty will dun make it all right. Ye'll both come home to-morrow." Then she turned back to the fire, wiped her eyes upon the ample check-apron, and continued: "Now, Pomp, dar aint no grass goin' ter grow under dis chile's feet, and we jess get no sleep dis night. You jess go an' snap dat ar gobbler's head off while I hang on de big pot. I dun got ter chop some mincemeat, an' make some pies an' a big plum-puddin'. We'll show 'em a Christmas-dinner of we die fer it."

Pompey was soon flying around, marshaled into the conflict by his energetic spouse, and when Mr. Bolton came down to breakfast his surprise was unbounded to find a huge fire on the hearth in the drawing-room, it having been closed for two years. The great dining-room was also a flood of light and warmth, while the long table, at which they now never sat, was glittering with the olden-time china, glass and silver. He went into the little room off his library, was sipping his tea and looking spiritless and despondent, and Dinah coming in at the moment with a plate of golden corncake, bustling and important, he asked:

"What does this mean? The entire house is lighted and warmed, as if you expected guests, when you know your mistress will not consent to entertain company."

"She'll entertain 'em dis day, or I be much 'staken."

"Dinah!" exclaimed Mrs. Bolton, lifting her languid eyes with a look of despair.

"Jess so. O massa! O missus! I t'ought I'd break it tu you gently, but I can't. My ole heart dun bust ef I keep it anudder minit. De dead be alive! De lost am found!" and the poor old creature threw her apron over her head, seated herself upon the floor, began to rock backward and forward, and sob aloud.

"What does she mean?" questioned Mr. Bolton, looking in wonder from the servant on the floor to the white face of his wife.

"I do not know. Speak out, Dinah," said his wife. "Explain what you mean."

The old creature rose to her knees, and, clinging to the skirts of her mistress, told every word of the story she had heard, the parents sitting in dumb amazement, and with incredulous joy mantling their faces. When she had concluded, the poor mother whispered:

"My George, my boy alive! O! husband! quick, let us fly to him."

She attempted to rise, but fell back in a dead faint. Leaving Aunt Dinah to restore her, he flew to the stables, with the help of Pompey harnessed the horses, and soon was dashing away to welcome his son and his wife. If she had been the incarnation of Satan, in place of the lovely young woman he folded to his heart with one arm, while the other clasped the hand of his son, he would have welcomed her, though perhaps not as warmly.

Of the other meeting in the old homestead little can be said. It was too sacred and soul-thrilling to be described. Such reunions are only to be seen by andrecorded in heaven, and by the pens of angels

But there were happy hearts gathered around the festive board that day. Old neighbors and friends were hastily summoned to partake of the goodcheer the devoted Dinah and Pomp had spent the night in preparing. Mrs. Bolton had put aside her sable robes, and, with the assistance of her new daughter donned brighter colors, and into her face crept light and life with every respiration. But no one assembled that day to do honor to the son and heir was more proud and happy than old Dinah.

"Massa George," said she when her young master insisted upon drinking her health, "I just dun prayed to de heavenly fayther to do somethin' to lighten up de ole house, an' he's dun it. He nebber refuses dis chile anythin' she axes fer in faith. An' when life gits cole and dark, an' ye dun't know which way tu turn, jest remember my words."

If stars sing "peace upon earth and goodwill to men," they did that night to the fond mother's heart, when her head rested upon the pillow, with the assurity of the renewal and brightness of life for her.

DOLLY'S CHRISTMAS.

WRITTEN FOR THE NEW YORK CLIPPER, BY FRANK McHALE.

Hugh Howard was in bad humor. He had been discharged from a lucrative position in consequence of the hard times, and, being rather extravagant, he neglected to lay aside the necessary shekels for a rainy day. His landlady was clamoring for her money, and it was of course preposterous to imagine for a single moment that our friend could liquidate her impecunious demands. He sat by the window gazing at a pretty soubrette actress who lived with her mother in an unassuming little frame-house on the opposite side of the way.

The young lady's name was Dolly St. Clair, though evil-disposed folks insidiously hinted that her real name was McGinnis. However, that is neither here nor there. Hugh knew her very well, and in better days he used to send her bouquets, books, and other little knicknacks. As he watched her sewing he inwardly wondered how he was going to pay his board-bill, and appease the hungry demands of other creditors.

"By jove, I'll do it!" said he, starting up from the chair and pacing the floor hurriedly. "I will ask Dolly if she can get me an engagement at the theatre. I think I could play small parts just as good, and probably a great deal better, than some of the sticks they have there now. But, great Cæsar! the salary is terribly small. No matter, a drowning man clutches at a splinter."

This was a very happy thought of Hugh's; and as he had been an amateur actor, and had a little experience—and an extra amount of cheek, by the way—there was every reason to believe that he could prove himself a new addition to the already swelling surplus of bad players now on the stage.

"If that infernal old uncle of mine would only take it into his head to die and leave me some of his fortune, it would come in very handy at the present time. It is lucky that he lives in Chicago and I in this great city, or I would negotiate with him for a loan. I think I'll step over and see Dolly. Steady, Hugh! what if she should snub me? The thought is absurd. Dolly is too much of a lady for that."

He hastily arranged his toilet with the firm resolve of having an interview with her; and as he was about to ring the bell of her residence, his heart failed him, and he slowly sauntered away from the house with the intention of treating himself to a perambulation around the block, in order to inhale the fresh air. As he was indulging in this luxury, whom should he meet face to face but the object of his thoughts!

"Good-morning, Mr. Howard," said Dolly, smiling in a rather captivating manner upon Hugh, who gallantly raised his hat and bowed.

Now, to speak candidly, kind reader, Dolly St. Clair was quite a fascinating young lady. Her age was probably nineteen. She was petite and plump. Her face was charming in its piquant loveliness. Beautiful torquoise eyes; a small, red, ripe mouth, which anon revealed two rows of pearly-white teeth. She had a little classical nose, verging almost toward the retrousse, and all these charms were surmounted by waves of sunny golden hair, clustering in delicate ringlets upon a low, white forehead.

"How does the world use you?" asked Dolly.

"Indifferently," replied Hugh. "Miss St. Clair, will you honor me with a few minutes' conversation?"

"Why, certainly. But not here in the open streets. Good gracious! Mr. Howard, people would think we were crazy, and the little boys who know me by sight would insist upon an immediate acquaintance."

He offered her his arm, and when they reached their destination Dolly's maternal relation invited him into the little parlor.

"Now, Mr. Howard, pray what is this important subject?" asked the young lady.

"It is this, Miss St. Clair," began Hugh, as he felt a large lump slowly rising from his heart to his throat. "I have been for a long period out of a situation, and, seeing no chance for another, I have humbly come to ask you for your assistance and aid in procuring me an engagement at the theatre. Do not think me impertinent, Miss St. Clair, and pardon my insolence in addressing you, but extravagance and penury have brought me to this and I——I——"

He could proceed no further. A film dimmed his eyes, and his lips utterly refused to speak, and he buried his face in his hands.

"Poor fellow!" said Dolly to herself. "The cruel iron has indeed pierced his soul deeply. Come, Mr. Howard, do not despair. Remember that there are gloomy days in every life which will, in all good time, give place to brighter ones. You have not offended me in the least, and I mean to help you, if you will permit me."

Hugh raised his head, and, dashing the tears from his eyes, he gratefully thanked her.

"No thanks; but present yourself at the theatre to-morrow morning at half-past ten o'clock. Our stage-manager wants a young man to sing in the new play, and when we reached here I intended telling you of it."

Punctually at that hour the next day Hugh appeared. He met Dolly at the stage-door of the theatre, and she introduced him to Mr. Gay, the stage-manager—a surly-looking old gentleman with a bald pate and shining spectacles.

"Are you a good singer, young man?" snarled Gay. "Can you read music?"

"Yes, sir."

After a consultation with the lessee Hugh was engaged for the munificent sum of eight dollars a week to sing "The Hymn of Victory" in the Hindoo spectacle of "Vishnu," which was to be produced on the following week. Our hero returned home that day with a light heart and an empty pocket. He communicated his good-fortune to his landlady, who expressed her opinion very strongly, and thought that no good would come from the result. When the play was brought out Hugh made quite an encouraging debut, and received complimentary notices from several of the newspapers. "Vishnu" proved a great attraction, and had an extraordinary run of four months. After its final nights our hero (through Dolly's influence) was retained in the regular company, and his salary now raised a little higher than it had been heretofore. The season closed on the approach of Summer. Dolly was engaged by a Canadian manager for his new theatre; Hugh accepted an offer of "walking-gentleman" to travel with a standard dramatic company supporting Junius De Spouterwell as the stellar-attraction. This was an excellent opportunity for our friend, and he would gain a great deal of experience by it. The day for Dolly's departure drew nigh.

"Good-bye, Mr. Howard," said she, holding out her little gloved hand to Hugh. "I hope when next we meet you will occupy a prominent niche in the profession."

"Good-bye, Miss St. Clair," he replied in a voice full of emotion. "I trust your generous wishes will be realized. Believe me, I shall always remember your kindness."

"Pshaw!" she rejoined. "Forget it, if you can."

And thus they parted.

* * * * * * *

"Mother, I have accepted this engagement,"

"My dear, you could not do better."

"But the salary is dreadfully low."

"It is better than nothing."

The persons engaged in this pithy dialogue were our old acquaintance Dolly and her mother. The young lady had been out of an engagement for a long while, and she had just accepted one from the manager of the Chandos Theatre. Dolly and her mother had a hard struggle of it to make both ends meet. The money that they had laid aside for dull times was all spent now, and the theatrical season was unusually dull. It was just five weeks from Christmas, and they anticipated that this holiday engagement would prove a God-send to them, as they desired to have a little cash in order to celebrate Christmas in true regal style.

"Heigho! how times have changed," mused Dolly, "and, as they say in the play, I hardly know myself. Two years ago we were so happy, and now we are so miserable, and are doing our utmost to keep up appearances. Christmas is coming, too. Well, I declare if something doesn't turn up it will be the gloomiest one we ever had. It would be so delightful to have a good genius or slave of the lamp or something similar to that wherein you had only to say 'Slave! obey thy mistress's wishes! Bring me jewels, gold, and so forth!' Ah, me! those good old days have passed. We don't live in fairyland no more.'"

This was a very silly direction for a young lady's thoughts to flow in, but the patient reader must take into consideration her idleness. Dolly went to the theatre the next day, and during rehearsal she overheard some of the members of the company chatting about the new Western star who was underlined for an early date.

"What is the gentleman's name, Mr. Smith?" she inquired casually of one of the actors.

"Cyril Danvers, I believe," he replied.

"Is he a strong magnet?"

"So they say. He has not been long in the business, but he made an accidental hit in a new play, so he purchased it, and went on a starring tour."

"Lucky fellow!" said Dolly. "I wish such would happen me."

A week or two glided on, and the company did not receive their salaries, as the theatre did a wretched business. Another week came and went, and still the ancient spectre did not walk his rounds as was his custom in bygone days. Affairs began to assume a serious aspect, and, one by one, like Summer roses, the actors disappeared; and, if the coming star did not accelerate his movements, he would in all probability find a deserted playhouse. Dolly was almost distracted, and, for the first time in her life, she was compelled to pledge her jewelry to keep herself and her mother from starving. It lacked but a week from Christmas; and, as she was hurrying home from the theatre one bleak, frosty morning, she slipped upon the deceitful sidewalk.

"My God!" she exclaimed, as a pang of excruciating pain darted through her ankle; "if I am disabled, what will become of us?"

"Are you hurt, madam?" asked the deep, manly voice of a young man as he assisted her to rise.

"I fear my ankle is seriously injured," gasped Dolly, as she endeavored to conceal her suffering.

"Great Heaven! it is Dolly St. Clair."

"Pardon me, sir, but you have the advantage ——"

"Do you not remember Hugh Howard, who has never forgotten you," said our hero. "What a brute I am, to stand here talking while you are in agony! I will procure a carriage, and see you safely home."

"I thank you, Mr. Howard, but I would rather walk."

"Nonsense! it is impossible," he replied. "What is your address!"

"46 Germain street," she answered.

He hailed a passing cab, and gently lifted Dolly into it. During the ride she reclined upon the cushions in a comatose state, and when they reached their destination the young man took the little form in his arms and carried her gently upstairs. Mrs. St. Clair was greatly alarmed at her daughter's accident, but upon examination she discovered that it was only a severe sprain.

"Don't you know me, Mrs. St. Clair?" asked Hugh, as a faint smile stole over his handsome countenance.

"Your face seems familiar," she replied as she eyed him keenly. "Oh, yes I recollect now. You are Hugh Howard."

"The same," he rejoined, as he warmly pressed the lady's outstretched hand. "And the memory of you and yours has never faded from his heart."

"Mr. Howard, I am very glad to meet you."

Hugh had been extremely fortunate after leaving the city. When his season with De Spouterwell was ended, he joined the "Kenelworth Traveling Combination," and after a few years of hard study he rose to leading business. The company happened to be playing near Chicago at one time, so Hugh paid a visit to his uncle. The old gentleman impulsively took a great liking to the young man, and in a short time afterwards died. The greater bulk of his money was left to charitable institutions, but the codicil of the will directed that the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars should be paid to his dutiful nephew. Hugh was delighted at this unexpected stroke of luck, and he purchased a play he had made a hit in. It was an immediate success, and he became famous. He adopted the name of Cyril Danvers, and was to have played his first metropolitan star engagement at the collapsed theatre. Our friend related his wanderings to Mrs. St. Clair, and upon the conclusion thereof the lady gave a brief account of Dolly's troubles, informing him, also, of the startling circumstances they were placed in.

"Is it possible," he exclaimed. "Have times so changed with you? But do not feel discouraged, and tell your daughter than I can offer her a lucrative engagement when she recovers from her accident."

Before Hugh departed he made the lady accept the loan of a small sum of money to procure a few trifling luxuries for Dolly. After a couple of days absence he called again, and found the fair invalid reclining upon the sofa, looking very pale and interesting.

"Good morning, Mr. Howard," said she, extending him her hand. "How can I ever thank you for your timely assistance."

"Really, Miss St. Clair, it is not worth talking of," replied Hugh, in embarrassment.

"I understand you have been very fortunate," she continued; "but I am rejoiced to know that you still remember your old friends."

"I would be an ungrateful wretch if I ever forgot them, especially one."

"How are affairs at the theatre?"

"Gloomy. It is impossible to make the stage presentable for a Christmas performance, as the men have created a perfect havoc with the scenery, smashed the chandeliers and destroyed the drop-curtain."

"Poor fellows! I can't blame them. They have had cause enough. Besides, a great many of the men are married, and have families to support."

"I can offer you an engagement?"

"I would like one."

"It is to become my wife."

"Hugh Howard, are you in earnest?" asked Dolly in amazement.

"I never joke upon serious subjects."

"Mercy! You have taken my breath away," she said.

"I have loved you for years, Dolly," said Hugh ardently, "but the poverty-stricken utility-man had not the courage to talk of love to his benefactress. Cyril Danvers the actor humbly begs of Dolly St. Clair to accept his suit."

"How dramatic!" laughed the young lady. "Really, Mr. Howard ——"

"Don't call me Mr. Howard."

"Well, Hugh, you dear fellow, if you are quite willing to take the poor little actress for your wife, why, she is perfectly content; but remember, sir, I am very poor, and you need not expect a Christmas-present from me."

"Heaven bless you, my darling!" exclaimed Hugh, as he impulsively caught Dolly to his breast, and rained passionate kisses upon her moist red lips. "The only present I desire is yourself, for you are indeed my Christmas-gift."

* * * * * * * *

The eve before Christmas the young couple were united in marriage; and upon Christmas-day, as the merry bells were pealing forth their joyous anthems to Heaven, Hugh said to his pretty wife:

"Dolly, are you happy?"

"Oh, yes, my husband, very happy," replied Dolly, with animated cheeks and beaming eyes.

"Hugh," said Mrs. St. Clair; "something has turned out better for your wife than she expected."

"Indeed! Pray, what is it?"

"DOLLY'S CHRISTMAS."

ITALY has only 550,000 voters in a population of 27,000,000.

NEW YORK CLIPPER.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1876.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

☞ Letters seeking information replied to only through this department; no answers by mail.

No Signature, Detroit.—"1. M. B. S., Chicago.—In playing euchre, if I assist my partner, can my partner play it alone? *Answer.*—Yes. 2. W. S. R., New York.—A, B, C, and D are playing a game of euchre; A deals; it is B's lead off, but C by mistake leads, and leads the right bower; C then takes up his bower, and B leads the joker, and insists upon C playing his bower. Can he make C play the bower? *Answer.*—Yes. Please print these questions as they are, and answer if they are correct."......1. There must be an assistance, as promised. The dealer cannot take advantage of his partner's virtual exposure of hand to play alone. 2. Unless the game was one of partners, the decision is incorrect. In a partner game the jack could be called as an exposed card; in a game in which every man plays for himself there can be no such exposure of cards as comes within the rule.

M. H., Chicago.—"Monte Cristo," dramatized by the late George H. Andrews from Dumas' then recently-published novel, was first produced on Dec 25, 1848, at the Broadway Theatre, New York, Lester Wallack playing Edmund Dantes. Its next production was at the Walnut-street Theatre, Philadelphia, on Jan. 24, 1849, for E. A. Marshall's benefit, and with the late William Wheatley in the title-role. It had at both houses a long run for those days, and at Burton's Chambers-street Theatre, this city, it was burlesqued. Later it became a standard stock-piece at the Bowery Theatre, with the late Edward Eddy as Dantes. There were also versions in England, and one of these is that still played by Charles Fechter.

D. H. P., Boston.—When application was made to the Rev. Mr. Sabine to perform the funeral services over the late George Holland, comedian, who died in this city Dec. 20, 1870, he declined doing so, and remarked that there was a little church around the corner (referring to the Church of the Transfiguration in Twenty-ninth street, between Fifth and Madison avenues), where the relatives might be accommodated. Mr. Sabine's conduct—for Mr. Holland had been a worshiper in his church—aroused the indignation of not only the theatrical profession, but of nearly the entire community. Since that time the Church of the Transfiguration has been popularly known as "The Little Church Around the Corner."

G. C.—1. We cannot now cite an instance. 2. Dom Pedro was not educated at West Point. He has been Emperor of Brazil since April 7, 1831, when he was not yet six years old. 3. West Point was not established for the benefit of foreigners. 4. There is a law to that effect in some European countries, and it may be the law in a few villages or hamlets in the United States. 5. Aaron Burr was never defrauded of anything; but, in running for Vice-president on the same ticket with Jefferson, he came very near causing the defeat of the latter for President.

H. F. J., Rochester.—1. Appleton & Co. of this city publish a guide-book that furnishes that information. 2. Exactly what a meteor is is not known, opinions varying. Consult a dictionary, which will give a general idea. 3. We do not furnish books or maps. 4. Ed. James, whose card see, can furnish you the works on checkers and billiards. 5. One place cannot be seen from the other. They are nearly two miles apart, and the street makes a detour. Where the San Francisco Minstrels used to be is but a quarter of a mile above the Theatre Comique.

Byshe, Hartford.—1. The performances in your city were covered in the obituary, which states that he was that season with George Ryer's traveling company, the function of which was to support stars. 2. As also stated in the obituary, he was playing in 1866-7 at the Winter Garden, this city, being the only Burroughs there. Nothing but a regular bill of the house would be conclusive as to his having appeared in "Richelieu," and, unfortunately, the file of bills disappeared with the house itself, March 23, 1867.

C. S.—1. You are not too young. 2. You could not secure an engagement with a minstrel band, as the managers thereof only employ well-known and talented performers. You might possibly get a position in a variety theatre. Accept any salary that may be offered at first, and as you become known it will be increased. Ethiopian comedians command from $25 to $150 per week, according to ability and reputation.

J. S. S., Ishpenning.—The iron drop-curtain has been in use in this country for many years; but, as fires have not occurred in the theatres where they are or were in use, no practical test has ever been made of their efficacy. The panic among the audience is more to be feared than the fire; and the sight of that kind of curtain, on its being lowered, would be equivalent to a cry of fire, and probably start a panic.

B. P. B., Topeka.—1. At pinpool a player is not entitled to more than one private ball at any time. 2. In some sections a bursted player plays at once; in others, as in New York, he waits until his turn comes round. 3. A pin knocked two inches from the spot is regarded as "down," under the rules, even though it maintains the perpendicular. There are some few rooms in which this rule is not observed.

Peoria.—1. Sixes are highest in poker-dice. 2. The saloon can of course make its own rules, but when those rules are in conflict with approved practice the patrons of the house should be notified in advance of any action. 3. We do not recognize the game from the term you use. It is a general principle of cards that a player's declaration, once made, cannot be altered, except with the consent of his adversaries.

A Flat, Halifax.—The salaries of musicians traveling with circuses fluctuate so much that we cannot give you a satisfactory answer. You would hardly be able to get an engagement in our city theatres. Apply to the leader of the band or orchestra, or advertise for an engagement. Salaries range from $18 per week upwards. Engagements for circuses are made in the Winter. The profession is overcrowded here.

Duff, Alexandria.—1. At regular euchre there can be but one lone hand at a time. 2. Nobody has ever printed a rule to the contrary, and there is not, nor has there ever been, any such thing as Hoyle on euchre. You probably refer to a work called "American Hoyle," which is not the work of the Hoyle who was once eminent as an authority on cards.

Maryland.—As it refers to the national debt of the United States, the American rule of computation, and not the English, should govern. It is therefore two billions. In England, but scarcely anywhere else, it would be two thousand millions; and it was so here many years ago—that is, supposing there could have been any occasion (and there was not) for going as high as 1,000,000,000.

W. F. M., Erie.—1. No poolseller has an inherent right to declare bets off, though it is necessary, for the protection of bettors, that, with the consent of the bulk of his patrons, he should acquire and exercise such a right in emergencies. 2. The fact that one poolseller has declared pools off does not affect pools held by another, nor does it directly affect bets anywhere.

Thoroughbred, St. John.—1. A "thoroughbred" is a horse whose pedigree can be traced back at least six removes, through both sire and dam, without meeting with what is termed "cold blood." 2. A "hand" is four inches. 3. Col. Russell utilizes Smuggler with respect to about nine-tenths of his broodmares.

J. S., Cleveland.—1. Bets on the Presidential election have not been declared off in this city. Pools have been delared off here, but that declaration does not necessarily affect even pools elsewhere. 2. If they were not three bets, they must be one, and are inseparable. You win or lose all, or draw all.

Declined—"When Married You Are," "The Day We Celebrate," "The Burning Theatre," "Cardinal Red," "A Terrible Dream," "Roving Irish Blades," "That's Him, There he Goes," "Boss Tweed's Arrival in New York," "The Exiles," "That Darling Girl of Mine," "The Brooklyn Fire."

C. F. Scheid, Fort Recovery.—1. Yankee Sullivan died in a cell (where he had been placed by the Vigilance Committee) in San Francisco, Cal., May 31, 1856. It was reported that he had committed suicide. 2. Joe Coburn is by trade a bricklayer. He is proprietor of a saloon in this city.

D. G. L., Rockford.—A loses unless H can be a member of the "next Congress," which is that which will assemble next March. The Congress which assembled early during the present month was merely the old Congress convened in second session.

Phil Petty, Trenton.—The value of furs is to a great extent regulated by caprice or fashion. Apart from that, "the best" is always the scarcest. Address a note to James Terwilliger, 39 Maiden lane, and he will give you current prices.

E. and F., Worcester.—The Stadt Theatre, in this city, has the largest seating capacity of all theatres in the United States. It seats 3,015. The Bolshoi Theatre, St. Petersburg, Russia, which is estimated to seat 5,000 persons, is probably the largest in Europe.

H. F., Salem.—1. "Pique" is pronounced "peek," whether on the stage or off it. 2. The base-runner does not take his base on a foul ball. 3. B's jack counted, and the decision was correct. 4. Do not know, except that he is reputed to be a blacksmith.

W. S. L., San Francisco.—1. The jumper must land clean, and not fall or step either backward or forward, to count; neither must he touch the ground with his hands. 2. Thanks for the report of games, which, however, were published last week.

Croker, Elyria.—1. Write to the Librarian of Congress, inclosing a stamp for reply, to ascertain if any particular act has been copyrighted. 2. They were said to be the numbers most frequently selected by colored people when playing policy.

Patience.—1. John W. Norton is unmarried. 2. Josie Orton is in Boston, Mass. 3. Actresses, unless they are managers, do not engage other actresses. If you desire to go on the stage, get an interview with some manager and solicit an engagement to play small business.

Constant Reader, Petrolia.—1. As a rule, such venders have to pay a license everywhere. The County Clerk is the party to furnish precise information. 2. The party who first places the goods in the market pays the tax, whether he manufactures or not.

Newark.—At cribbage, a player who turns jack can count two for it at any time before he himself has played a card. It is immaterial whether others have played cards or not, nor does it make any difference if it is his partner who has played a card.

Bridgeport.—Vote of New York State—Tilden, 522,518; Hayes, 489,529; Smith, 2,359; Cooper, 1,987; Woodruff Post, 1,377; Scattering, 451; total, 1,018,201. Tilden's majority, 26,815. This is as near as we can come to the true solution of a muddled vote.

F. and B.—The bet was decided some weeks ago. Having been made after election, the wager was as to a fact of which both parties are assumed to have cognizance. No Hayes elector received a vote in Washington, D. C., and F. wins.

Six Kings, Saratogo.—A is out. Even if the eight did not put him out, B could not count the four that A had failed to claim. The rule permitting B to do so became obsolete many years ago.

G. J. Q., Cohoes.—We do not answer questions in this department concerning the private domestic affairs of professionals. If you address letters of inquiry to the persons named, they may possibly give you the information.

S. B. M., Selma.—Morrissey simply declared off the bets made in his pool-room, or rather bets on pools sold by himself. His action does not necessarily effect private bets, or even pools elsewhere.

Palisade.—The bet is a draw. The tournament is over, and neither Rudolphe nor J. Dion won it. Any games they may subsequently play with Slosson in reference to the ties do not affect the wager.

H. M. N., Fair Haven.—Andrew Johnson was impeached. It required a two-thirds vote to convict of the offenses that were the basis of his impeachment. He was not convicted, and still he was impeached.

Yambo.—If it was understood that five should be counted for the best trump, A is out. The fact that he did not call out before the other is not unanswerable in this case, because he had to wait to see if his trump was really the best.

J. F. O'R., Toronto.—1. E. L. Davenport supported Anna Cora Mowatt when she was performing in England. 2. Anna Cora Mowatt Ritchie died in London, Eng., July 29, 1870. She was in comfortable pecuniary circumstances.

Doosey, Richmond.—We cannot tell you what has become of Ben Hayes, a minstrel performer, who was dangerously cut in an affray in your city in 1872. We have no record of his death.

Texas, Columbia.—Having made it five, A could not build it to ten when it came his turn to play again. A player cannot build up his own pile until after his antagonist has built upon it.

An Admirer of L.—1. Leon was born in this city Nov. 21, 1844. 2. Kelly & Leon's Minstrels have been in existence some fifteen years. 3. We know of no place in this city where autographs of actors and actresses are sold.

Olympus, Troy.—1. C could not make it a ten for his partner without having a ten in his own hand. 2. Miss Fanny Davenport of the Fifth-avenue Theatre, this city, is a daughter of E. L. Davenport.

J. O. F., Mount Clemens.—Possibly your letter did not reach us. Repeat the questions, and we will endeavor to answer them. No answers by mail, and no charge for answering.

Cincinnati Lunch Club.—Bets still stand, unless drawn by mutual agreement. No reasoning man will refuse to draw, as the Presidential complication cannot well be unraveled before next February.

Subscriber, Cincinnati.—Private bets stand, unless mutually drawn. It may be necessary after a while to declare them off. At present the demand does not seem to us urgent.

G. F., Indianapolis.—When the jack in hand is not "his knob," two kings, a queen and a jack, with a third king turned up, are worth six by pairs and nine by sequences—fifteen.

Bowery Boy.—The second fight between Sam Collyer and Barney Aaron took place at Acquia Creek, Va., June 13, 1867.

G. W. V., Flushing.—1. We know nothing of him further than he occasionally advertises. 2. He does. When last heard from, Homer Lane was in California.

E. F. S. and J. McK., Lawrence.—There is no attempt to keep a record of the time of pacers, except when the time is very fast.

F. T., Cleveland.—1. L is to throw a baseball. 2. The bet having been worded in that particular way, A loses it. 3. No answers by mail.

B. C., Bay City.—All having passed, and the dealer having rapped, the "dummy" must be turned up by the latter.

J. B.—B is wrong. A could claim the deal at any time before he had led. He could claim it even after he had led, provided that B had not yet discarded.

C. A. W., Indian Territory.—It is probably some Mongolian laundryman's business-card. We have no time to devote to Chinese hieroglyphics.

D. L., Chief Signal Office.—All the employés of that establishment who receive a salary worthy of note are pledged to secrecy with regard to it.

C. A. A., St. Louis.—You having declared an alone, the dealer could not go alone against you, the game being regular euchre.

J. M. M., Burlington.—We cannot tell you who has been elected President of the United States for the next four years.

J. A. L., Baltimore.—No answers by mail. As we cannot afford the space to publish the official returns in full, you had better state the nature of the bet.

C. I., Grand Rapids.—The art of preparing fire-eating preparation is a secret. See advertisement in another column.

Ex Q.—1. They are woodcuts, and cost about $4 to engrave. 2. They are gotten up by the publishers of the books.

James Vaughn, Camp Verde.—Coburn never fought at a greater weight than 170lb. When he won the championship by defeating McCoole, in 1863, he weighed but 152½lb.

Goodenough, Carson City.—We believe that it is the largest hotel in this country. We cannot decide a bet as to its being the largest in the world.

Creedmoor.—The competitors who scored 125 each should either divide the prize or shoot off the tie, as they may mutually agree.

Oregon.—1. D. O'Leary walked 100 miles in 18h. 53m. 40s., in Chicago, Ill. 2. That jump is not a record. 3. He leaped from a spring-board.

J. McC., Buffalo.—The Erie to which you doubtless refer was burned Aug. 9, 1841. Loss, about 172 persons; on boat, $75,000; on merchandise, $20,000; in specie, $180,000.

Phillips, Boston.—1. A signature in lead-pencil is good in law. 2. The Governor of Massachusetts cannot pardon a criminal without the approval of his Council.

Billiards, Meadville.—1. No one of the four named has ever played a regular match on a 4½x9 table. 2. Any change would affect their game temporarily.

Subscriber, Minneapolis.—A is wrong. At draw-poker the deal passes; at straight poker, the winner of the pot deals.

E. K. M., Louisville.—There are no rules for the game, except those specially made for it in the coteries in which it is played.

H. M. J.—B is entitled to three in the first case, and to two in the second. There is nothing for the last card when it makes thirty-one.

J. A. S.—1. The Westfield explosion took place July 30, 1871. 2. The great Chicago fire, Oct. 8, 9, 1871, though the first of the series began Oct. 7.

G. A., Nashville.—No answers by mail. Inclose a postage stamp to Ed. James, as per his advertisement in this issue, and he will send you a catalogue.

B. G. M.—1. It is proper to place a horizontal bar on the stage in any position you may prefer. 2. Thank you; but we do not require it.

Reynolds, Providence.—A owes no more than anyone else. C has simply been dreaming.

Paducah.—Neither Williams nor Tilden had a majority in Indiana.

Orphan, Newark.—Her full name is Laura Alberta Harrison.

M. J. S.—Lay your case before the Police-justice at the Jefferson Market.

Lyons, Boston.—C, who gave three and made three, goes out on his high.

Amateur, St. Louis.—A must continue to play his hand, and he is expected to play it without fear or favor.

T. G., Shamokin.—If the bet was worded as you state, Smith loses in having failed to beat Jones.

Reader.—Thirty-seven won, if no one else threw higher. T wins.

Cambria, Johnstown.—B is shut out for having a foul hand.

A. C., Cohoes.—The Democrats did not carry New York State by 30,000 majority.

Auction Pitch Club, Washington.—R is out on his high-jack, which counts before low-game.

Tobacconist, Mobile.—Hayes did not have 10,000 majority in Illinois.

C. H. S., Gambier.—See answer to "H. W. W., Hudson," in our issue dated Nov. 11 last.

C. E. B., Jackson.—1. You are wrong. There are eight by pairs and ten by fifteens. 2. No answers by mail.

Jim, Cleveland.—Mme. Janauschek is German. She has been performing in English about six years.

Puzzled, Philadelphia.—Miss Rose Wood is no relation of Mrs. John Wood.

Nix, Harrisburg.—The remains of Joseph Jefferson's grandfather (not his father) are buried in your city.

D. A. J., Altoona.—The jack, if turned up fairly, entitles A to the bird.

Fire Department, St. Louis.—Sancho takes precedence of pedro, as surely as the nine-spot is higher than the five.

H. M., Wilkesbarre.—We make no charge, but the song is declined.

G. F. C., Boston.—Endeavor to secure a situation as assistant agent first, and so learn the duties of a principal.

Wabash, U. S. S. Wabash.—We cannot vouch for lottery agents. The lottery itself ranks as sound.

Ticket-holder.—The practice varies, because pool-selling is wholly arbitrary. Usually, commissions are not deducted on undecided events.

C. E. J., Washington.—The London Pavilion Show and Howe's London Circus are two distinct organizations. Have advertised the letter.

J. S., Detroit.—Both performers named are excellent. It is a matter of opinion who is the best. Haverly's Minstrels are considered as good as any in the country.

Rip, Clarksville.—Brief items of fresh and reliable news, mailed so as to reach us not later than the first mail on Monday mornings, will be thankfully received.

J. B. S., Hot Springs.—George Chaplin, who is now acting in Australia, was stage-manager for Ben De Bar in St. Louis, and not the late George Chapman.

Chimes, Boston.—The "sixes" cannot be touched by anything but a six.

J. S.—"The Crabbed Age" was never produced at the Park Theatre, in this city.

Schroeder.—A wins on any amount from $9,000 upwards.

J. G., Huron.—It is a run of three for B if 30 was not reached before he played his deuce.

Mrs. Hagar, Newark.—Address a letter to him in care of this office.

Constant Reader.—A card manufacturer informs us that he never heard of vulcanized-rubber playing cards.

Brother, Louisville.—1. We have no knowledge of his whereabouts. 2. Respectfully declined.

O. C. F., Greenville.—There is no sequence for the player of the second ace when the cards fall 3, 1, 2, 1.

Solid, St. John.—We do not know anything about the work named. See Ed. James' advertisement.

Morton, Boston.—John Morrissey was born at Templemore, Ireland, Feb. 5, 1831.

P. H. C., Louisiana.—Miss Neilson is an actress, and Mlle. Nilsson is an operatic singer.

A Reader, Brooklyn.—The player who was first to make 21 should have called out at once.

J. A. Y., Brodhead.—At seven-up low-jack goes out before high-game.

S. T. C., Derby.—If A can get the ace, he will be out. The cards must be played out.

J. E. C. M., St. Catharine.—1. A's high-game puts him out. 2. Sancho counts before pedro.

Poker Club, Fairburg.—A must have a show for his money.

G. D. E. E., Phila.—More than four cannot be bid at auction pitch, and a player can bid but once.

G. A.—Brooklyn is in New York. It is also in at least fourteen other States.

Aces and Sixes, Phila.—Aces do not beat sixes at poker dice.

Many Readers, Trenton.—We cannot furnish the *exact* majorities in those six States.

J. Latz Jr.—B. W. and Mlle. De G.'s letters are still in our care. The I. Sisters have received theirs.

C. W., Vandalia.—No. All such bets are in doubt still.

F., Poughkeepsie.—It is wrapped in profound mystery.

N. B., Syracuse.—We know nothing about that lottery.

T. O. A., Jersey City.—See answer to "Bridgeport."

W. W. C., Chicago.—B could not make it ten.

G. B. Shepard.—Yes; sent it as requested.

R. A. W., Manhattanville.—We cannot say.

L. A. W., New York.—No; it is still here.

Barber, P. H. C.—Both were sweeps.

Jim.—See answer to "Bridgeport."

Bart S.—Yes; early and often.

G. W. G.—A loses.

THE GENEROSITY OF THE STAGE.

One lesson is to be drawn from the recent burning of the Brooklyn Theatre, and it is this: The chord of sympathy is touched never so quickly as when calamity falls upon a people. This is true, in a measure, of all classes; it is especially true of the stage. If we look back upon the long list of misfortunes which have befallen the theatre—and it is a list which carries with it a lesson that none can afford to disregard—we shall find that, in every instance where disaster or death has thrown a black shadow over the stage, there the spirit of charity has prompted a quick and generous response to the necessities of the hour. Now, generosity is a virtue so closely allied to charity that it is sometimes difficult to draw a line between the two. It is difficult to conceive of a generous man who is not charitable, or of a charitable man who is not generous. One trait of character is pretty sure to beget the other, for a man who meets a starving beggar upon the street and says to himself "I pity that man," and thereupon passes by without turning his pity into practical aid, such a man cannot be called charitable, albeit he lays claim to that virtue. On the other hand, the man who, seeing the beggar, says nothing, but buys him a loaf of bread, proves himself the Good Samaritan and the possessor of that divine attribute which is greater than either faith or hope. Generosity, then, whatever the definition contained in the dictionaries, may properly be termed the material expression of charity.

And it is in this respect, pre-eminent above all others, that the Stage offers an example which the whole Christian world would do well to follow. It strikes us that, in the light of what has happened during the past two weeks, those billious expounders of the gospel who have hitherto delighted in denouncing the playhouse as the legitimate offspring of the Devil might learn a lesson of lasting value. We remember how, not many months ago, a certain preacher over in Brooklyn, whose theology is of that strongly gymnastic type which flourishes best, if not exclusively, in the City of Churches—we remember how this harlequin of the pulpit stood up and brazenly declared that every man and woman who trod the boards was doomed to everlasting torments in the world to come. Precisely where or when this preacher possessed himself of such momentous information does not appear; but that he was morally certain of the truth of what he proclaimed we have no doubt. And does he hold to that belief to-day? Does he still claim that there is nothing good or noble or glorious in the lives of those who follow the stage as a profession? Has he shut his eyes to the prompt and practical relief which has been rendered by the actors and managers throughout the country to those who suffered most keenly from the Brooklyn calamity? Does he presume to say that poor Murdoch and Burroughs have not left behind them memories as fragrant, lives as worthy, records as clean, as though they had followed another calling on this earth? Has he kept himself in ignorance of the generous contributions which have poured in from all classes of the theatrical profession—contributions which, in many cases, could be made only at the price of self-sacrifice? Has he seen and weighed and considered these things? And does he still presume to consign us all to the sulphurous regions below because, forsooth, our mission in the world is to amuse, and not to harrow mankind? Ah, Talmage! we have read, as you must have read, of those two men who went up into the temple to pray many hundreds of years ago; and we have pitied—have not you done likewise?—the foolish Pharisee who thanked God that he was not as other men are. Is the tribe of that Pharisee yet extinct?

The open-handed generosity of stage-people has become proverbial. And it is to be remembered that this generosity is not by any means confined to the necessities of their own associates. At the burning of the Richmond Theatre, which, with the single exception of the recent terrible calamity, resulted in a greater loss of life than was ever known in this country from the burning of a "playhouse"—at the time of that sad occurrence, the quick and generous response which went forth from theatre-circles was a matter of general comment and surprise. When Dan Bryant died, the places of amusement in this city united in raising a goodly sum for the support of the minstrel's family. And instances like these might be cited without limit. They show a broader, truer charity than may be found among any other class of people. They show a warmth of heart, a sympathy with suffering, a tender appreciation of the wants of others, and a practical sort of philanthropy, which are alike refreshing and rare. We have never held it to be the province of this journal to attack those who have deemed it their duty to arraign and denounce the stage. Hot discussions of such a nature are seldom productive of good results. Political antagonists may wrangle day in and day out, yet, when the wrangling is over, the disputants are only more firmly convinced of the absolute truth of their opposing principles. We could hope by no argument, however elaborate or profound, to convince Brother Talmage—and we speak of him with the respect which properly attaches to a man who appends D.D. to his name—that the theatre is not wholly bad, or that the actor's profession is not in itself degrading. Believing that such discussions can accomplish nothing, The Clipper prefers to refrain from participating in them. Men who feel compelled to establish their virtue by argument are not usually to be accepted as paragons of perfection. So, while we think it wiser to let the stage work out its own salvation, we are nevertheless prompted, at this time, to call attention to the one noble attribute which has found so recent and so striking an illustration. Out of the gloom of the Brooklyn disaster rises the sweet figure of Charity. Let those who profess to find only evil in the theatre, and only wickedness among the players on the stage, remember that it is from these sources that the generous contributions have chiefly come which have afforded material relief to the suffering and the afflicted. And, beholding charity in others, may the gracious mantle of that crowning virtue fall likewise upon their shoulders, so that, if faith and hope be theirs already, they shall add to these that divinest attribute of mankind, that noblest virtue of all—Charity.

CHRISTMAS—1876.

It is Christmas again, and the receding days have borne us almost to the gates of a new year.

"How the Winters, like snow-flakes, are drifting away,
And the Summers, like buds, between!"

So, at last, they have drifted us into that gladdest time of the year—"Yule Tide." It is not alone a glad time—it is a time of memories, a time of giving and forgiving, a time to receive gifts, and to look forward with bright anticipation to the swiftly approaching days of a New Year.

What beautiful legends are connected with Yule Tide! It is said that no evil spirits walk abroad; the air grows healthier; the stars hymn their praises; that at twelve o'clock on Christmas-night the cattle in their stalls bow to their knees in mute adoration; that the lonely tenants of quiet graveyards rest peacefully in their narrow houses; and, when a child is born on Christmas, the Virgin Mother watches over the accouchment. The morn of Christmas is ushered in with the glad cry: "Wish you a merry Christmas!" Even the poorest can give this, and it shall be a memorial of affection through coming days. As Gay well says:

"When time comes round, a Christmas-box they bear,
And one day makes them rich for all the year."

It is a fitting time for gifts. On this day the world received the gift of the Divine Life, which for thirty-three years sojourned with us!—which was ahungered, athirst, and took upon itself the burden of our humanity—which was given, not as propitiation for the righteous, but that, through that gift, we might not perish, but have everlasting life. Does not the same star which at Bethlehem of Judea shone over the shepherds still shine for us? How can we commemorate this great gift better than by giving to the children of His love?

The story of Christmas is one of great joy to all people. Joy to the poor, for Christ came unto the poor. Joy to the rich, for Christ came to teach them to be merciful to the poor, and by so making use of their possessions on earth to lay up rishes in Heaven. Joy to the ignorant, for Christ came to make them wise unto salvation. It is the sweetest story told by the voice of Time; and the wave of joy flowing from that happy birth-morn is wide enough to encompass the earth, rich enough to bless every human soul, and deep enough to flow on through all eternity. Therefor it is that this is to us a time of festivity and rejoicing.

In every heart there is an undertone of sadness; a still, small voice which will make itself heard even in the season of rejoicing. It is a warning from the future, a reflex from a preexistence which we have forgotten, but whose dim memories still follow on after our lives. It is the moan of the surf which the sensitive ear, listening to the jubilate of waves upon the beach, may indistinctly catch in the pauses, but it is a sadness closely allied to joy—a tear which gives its sparkle to the laughter that so soon follows. If the years did not bear us on so rapidly; if the voice which on this Christmas morn wakes us with its echo of "Merry Christmas!" might not be hushed when the next Christmas dawns; if the face which brightens for us today might not ere then be damp with the grave-mould, this would not be. Still, let us be happy! Merry Christmas to you! Man dies, but the years are eternal!

Just at this time the heart of the people is saddened. We have been tried by fire, and the Angel of Annunciation has suddenly set his seal upon many hearts, the music is hushed by desolate hearth-stones, and the nation mourns with the mourners. Upon this Christmas the desolation in Brooklyn homes saddens even the glad day of the Nativity. With the profession the sorrow is none the less deep because night after night the face must be wreathed with smiles for the public:

He knows who hath sounded life's shallows
The faces where tears lie and sleep,
For the foam-flakes that dance on its hollows
Are wrung from its deep.

Deep down in the hearts of these Christmas columbines and clowns rests the fount of true humanity, which is troubled with the tears, and joys with the joys, of others—tender and true. So, despite the sorrow, care and uncertainty which stalk the stage behind the player, and follow him home as the curtain drops, theirs shall be a merry Christmas.

The lights are brilliant upon Broadway and the avenues. In hundreds of happy homes the Christmas-tree is dressed, and beneath its branches, bright with waxen tapers, and bearing fruit dear to childish hearts, the babe rests in its manger. Father, mother, grandsire, children—all are there, and happy voices echo back the happy laughter. Outside of Broadway, outside of the great streets and thoroughfares, are want and suffering. There are no Christmas-trees, no gifts for these children. Think of this to-day in your luxurious homes, Christian philanthropists, and let the love of Christ in your hearts brighten the Christmas-day for these forsaken ones.

Meantime the world moves on; Christmas will come and go; the years will bring joy and sorrow, smiles and tears; the maskers will mask, revel will be held, and we shall bear a part with the revelers. After all, this is a bright world, a happy world. We who write, you who read, are a part of its brightness. Its Christmas-chimes have a merry jingle. Was our last Christmas sad? This shall be a merry, merry Christmas, for the ills which then molested shall have ceased to molest. The bells of to-day are joy-bells. We have much as a people to make us glad. The land is filled with the plenitude of a rich harvest. Our barns and bins are bursting with their stores of food—there is enough for all. Our Centennial has reached a successful conclusion, and that is certainly cause why we should be happy. The Centennial year will soon terminate, and the nation commencing its second century may count in its limits merry Christmases one hundred times.

As for us personally, we hope to show a smiling face to our readers fifty-two times before another Christmas puts in its welcome appearance. We shall joy with their joys, sorrow with their sorrows, record their triumphs, and play our part as usual upon our little stage of life. We hope to sit with them by the yule-log of 1877, and

"Whenever the way grows weary,
And the road seems dreary and long,
We shall tell a more wonderful story,
Or sing a more wonderful song."

And, so hoping while seated in our sanctum, and the hand of Time is uplifted to ring down the curtain of the year, whilst the purple midnight-air seems to grow radiant with the pinions of waiting Christmas angels, we raise one little corner, look lovingly out upon our readers, and, with peace and good-will towards our fellow-men, wish one and all a

Merry Christmas!

"The Board of Pardons" in New Jersey might enjoy a happy Christmas by releasing the convicted prize-fighters, and sending them home to their families. No, Jimmy; not to the families of the *Board*. How you talk! The boys have found other employment for their hands in making shoes for the feet—the *last* thing on which to train prize-fighters.

The views we expressed last week concerning the Brooklyn conflagration have been borne out by the report of the Fire-marshal, which may be found in another column.

There was no satisfaction in betting on the recent election, for nobody seems to have made anything. Guess the bets will have to stand over until the *next* election.

Sober second thought begins to see that lives might have been saved at the Brooklyn fire if the audience had *not* been advised to keep their seats.

Wouldn't it be better for "the greatest country on the face of the earth" if the wisdom of the nation should decide to remove the Capitol to Alaska?

See Here.—Are the "destitute Poles" at Castl Garden the North Poles which the world has so long been looking for?

Expert dicers can earn a good deal of poultry by throwing three sixes at turkey-raffles.

Now that they have got two governors of South Carolina, why not make two States of it?

The recent cold snap has pretty well divested orchard-trees of their fruit.

Wonder when the election for President is going to take place, anyhow.

THE NEW YORK CLIPPER ALMANAC, for 1877,

Will be Ready January 8,

and can be obtained after that date of all newsdealers and agents.

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THE ALMANAC FOR 1877 WILL CONTAIN:

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NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

We have extended the time for receiving advertisements to December 27, and such of our patrons as desire to advertise in THE ALMANAC FOR 1877 are requested to send in their favors as early as possible, and not later than that date. Rates are published in our business department.

Newsdealers can secure their supplies, as usual, through their wholesale agents.

Copies will be mailed from this office on receipt of price, 15 cents.

FRANK QUEEN,
Publisher and Proprietor,
88 and 90 Centre street, New York.
P. O. Box 3,860.

Good words for the profession from the pulpit are so seldom heard that we give place to the following abstract of a sermon preached by Rev. O. L. Ashenfelter, pastor of the Reformed Church, Carlisle, Pa., Sunday evening, Dec. 17, 1876:

"When, a few days since, nearly three hundred people lost their lives by the burning of a theatre in Brooklyn, did the Church interest itself in the welfare of the widows and orphans and homeless poor, made such by that calamity? Did Christian people, as such, sacrifice their time and money to provide for those suffering from the disaster? The most they did was to meet and *pray* over it—just as if a prayer would rain bread from Heaven! I notice in the papers that the ministers *preached* about it, just as if preaching would clothe the naked and feed the hungry! There was no uprising of the Christian Church to obey the Saviour's instructions in precisely such a case as this. That was left to the much-abused and unrighteously-persecuted theatrical profession. Immediately after the calamity, benefits were offered by leading theatres, and there was such a noble, generous donation of money, time and talent that I, for one, cannot help giving public and merited praise to a profession that, while persecuted by the Church, can yet outstrip the Church in Christian charity and Christ-like beneficence. According to one account, $20,000 are to be contributed by the theatrical profession; but I have not yet heard of the Church contributing liberally. Now, what think you of the *morality* of the case before us? Here is a profession generally misrepresented, and its followers ostracized, that makes no pretension of Christianity; it holds no prayer-meetings or 'revivals.' Because Christianity, as interpreted by the modern pulpit does not recognize it, it don't go to church; it has been denied the communion, and is looked upon as a sort of degradation; it is not 'religious'—in the popular cant—and yet, if you study the example of Christ and read His teachings, can you not see that this profession does precisely as He commands? Here was a cry coming from the suffering poor of a great city. The cry reached the Church, and the Church *prayed;* it reached the sympathetic hearts of a profession outside of the Church, and the hungry were at once fed, the naked clothed, and the sick visited. Upon which, now, do you think the blessing of our Heavenly Father rests—upon you, church member, who know your Lord's will and *do it not*, or upon those who, while they do not *cry:* 'Lord! Lord!' yet *do* what the Lord commands."

NEWS OF THE WEEK BOILED DOWN.

⁂ On Dec. 11: A resolution calling for an investigation of the election in New York and Brooklyn, passed the U. S. House of Representatives......The report of a massacre in South Carolinia was denied......Postmaster Fairman of Philadelphia was removed, J. L. Snowden being appointed in his stead....A number of other disasters along the coast from the storm of the 9th were reported....John P. Briscoe, a leading Democrat of Clayborne County, Miss., was stated to have been assassinated on the 9th.....Smith Ely Jr., Mayor elect of New York City, resigned his seat in Congress......Telegrams from abroad were to the effect that, at Windberg, Saxony, twenty-five miners were killed by an explosion in a colliery; that there is to be a fresh exodus of Mennonites from Russia, 50,000 of whom desire to settle in either the United States or Brazil, S. A.; that much excitement prevailed in the Basque Provinces, Spain, because they were ordered to pay 18,500,000 reals to maintain the army of occupation; that in the highest quarters great hopes were entertained of a peaceful solution of the Eastern difficulty; and that M. Dufoure had given up the attempt to reorganize the French Cabinet, and insisted upon resigning......Jennie Marquette of Cincinnati, O., was reported to have been shot and fatally injured on the 10th by the accidental discharge of a pistol in the hands of Albert Stauffer......Mrs. Julie Barreiras, portrait and picture painter of St. Louis, Mo., fell through the skylight in the roof of her residence, and died from concussion of the brain........Mrs. C. W. Collins of Bryson, Ont., while laboring under an attack of temporary insanity, drowned her two little daughters......Losses by fire: estimate of loss by the Burlington, N. J., fire on the 10th, $53,750, insured for $16,300; Bean Bros. & Tennant's flouring-mill at Faribault, Minn.—loss $27,000, insured for $6,000; the Cataract building and other property at Cleveland, O.—loss $25,000, insurance $12,000; A. P. Cheney's greenhouses, at Natick, Mass.—loss $19,000; the First National Bank at Fergus Falls, Minn.—loss $12,000; Timothy Ryan's greenhouses and nursery, at Yonkers, N. Y.—loss $5,000......Michael Butler died at Quincy, Mass., from injuries received at a fire.

⁂ Dec. 12: The Louisiana Returning Board refused to acknowledge the right of Congress to review their action......Chicago, Ill., Republicans fired a salute of 185 guns in honor of the election of Hayes and Wheeler......A report in favor of abandoning the naval establishments at New London, Ct., New Orleans, La., and Brunswick, Ga., was made by the Naval Commission......Per cable: the French crisis was ended, Jules Simon being made Premiere and M. Martel Minister-of-justice; during the voyage from Cardiff to China, Captain Peabody and Mates Snow and Stafford of the American bark C. O. Whitmore cruelly treated the crew, and tortured a mate named Elwood to death; the bark was closely watched in the harbor of Hong Kong by the U. S. steamer Kearsarge, the captain of which has demanded the surrender of the accused parties, but the Governor declines to give them up, and the Kearsage will follow the Whitmore if she attempts to escape; a preliminary meeting of the Conference had been held at Constantinople, and satisfactory progress made; a dispatch published in Vienna papers asserted that the Porte will adhere to the Treaty of Paris, and consider every project of occupation a cause of war; a fire had destroyed part of Valparaiso; the arrival of rifles from New York caused great rejoicing in Guyayquil, Ecuador; the rebellion in Entre Rios, Argentine Republic, is at an end; and the Hungarian Cabinet have resigned.......The Democracy carried the municipal election at Boston, Mass......The brigantine Capt. Siteman was wrecked near Herring Cove, N. S., James Kerrigan, Thos. Wilson, Thos. Regan and Capt. Geo. Reid being drowned......John A. Clarke and another man were killed, and two more perhaps fatally wounded, by a boiler-explosion on Greenpond Mountain, near Dover, N. J.......Swan C. Engwall was crushed to death while coupling cars at Peoria, Ill......Nick Koch of Chicago committed suicide by shooting at Elgin, Ill......At Baltimore, Md., Andrew Norris was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for an attempt to grossly assault Harriet Williams, a young colored school-teacher, in 1874.

⁂ Dec. 13: A great ice-jam occurred at St. Louis, Mo., by which the steamboats Centennial (brand-new, worth $125,000), Davenport, Alex. Mitchell, Jennie Baldwin, Southern Bell, and Fanny Keener were sunk, and the War Eagle, Golden Eagle, Minneapolis, Andy Johnson and Bayard badly broken up. They were still imprisoned by the ice, which was piled up ten feet high......Coroner Simms began an examination into the cause of the death of the victims of the Brooklyn Theatre fire......The United States House of Representatives passed a bill authorizing the coinage of a standard silver dollar, and restoring its legal-tender character......Hon. A. S. Hewitt, chairman of the National Democratic Committee, issued an address congratulating the people on "the election of Tilden and Hendricks," and Hon. Zach Chandler, chairman of the Republican Committee, also issued an address to the effect that "Hayes and Wheeler are elected, and the will of the people will be maintained," and characterizing Mr. Hewitt's document as an "impudent and audacious attempt to prejudice and pervert the public judgment."......It was cabled that the absence of the Porte's representative from the preliminary conferences created an unfavorable impression, and the fact that Russia is permitted to sit in judgment on the questions at issue was commented on in Turkish circles; that the Plenipotentiaries seemed to be agreed that Bulgaria should be placed under a Christian Governor; that the new Spanish Constitution will be put in operation early in the Spring; that in the Basque Provinces in Spain there is a passive resistance to the law abolishing the fueros; and that a new Greek ministry had been formed under Comoundouros......Advices from Australasia stated that a severe storm passed over the northern part of New Zealand Nov. 11, one man being killed, and damage to the extent of £500,000 being caused, and that twelve French communists escaped from Noumea in a steam-launch, but ten of them were recaptured, the other two being drowned......Frederick Viola, aged 16, committed suicide by shooting in this city.

⁂ Dec. 14: The steamer Homer was sunk, and ten persons were drowned, at Payne's Landing, on the Red River, La......Councilman Patrick Mulligan was shot, perhaps fatally, by (as was supposed) Thos. J. Hogan, at Baltimore, Md......At Boston, Mass., John Fean was sentenced to imprisonment for life for the murder of Daniel McCarthy......Arthur Hacken, son of a prominent shoe-manufacturer at Lynn, Mass., was accidentally killed......In defending herself against assault, Mrs. Robert McDonald of Albany, N. Y., shot and dangerously wounded her husband......The Security Life and Annuity Insurance Company of this city was declared insolvent, and Mayor Wickham was appointed receiver........Wade Hampton was sworn in as Governor of South Carolina in the presence of the Wallace House......The U. S. Senate agreed to the printing of documents from members of both parties who visited Louisiana......Eugene Christ of this city fatally shot Mary Kelly because she refused to marry him......Masked men robbed a bank near Zanesville, O., of $10,000.......Foreign telegrams stated that the report that the English and Russian representatives at the Conference are agreed as to the occupation of Bulgaria is untrue; that the infantry force of Roumania is to be increased from eight to sixteen regiments; that the Serbian Government is issuing notes with a forced circulation; that Russia has promised to support Montenegro's claims for an extension of territory and the possession of a seaport; that the Russians were working night and day, forming a vast fortified camp at Bender, large barracks were being constructed at Faleze and Ungbenz, immense quantities of hay are being stored in Bucharest, and the mobilization of a reserve force of 100,000 men asked for by the Grand Duke Nicholas had commenced at St. Petersburg and Moscow; that the President of the Union du Credit Bank of Brussels, Belgium, had absconded, and a rumor prevailed that one of the directors had committed suicide; that, in a statement made in the Chamber of Deputies, France, M. Jules Simon declared himself a Republican and Conservative, devoted to liberty of conscience, and with a sincere reverence for religion; that M. Gambetta declares that the new Cabinet was formed against him, and he should not forget it; and that Bishop Brinckman and Dr. Geist and two German priests had been sentenced to imprisonment for disobedience of the ecclesiastical laws......A terrible conflagration was reported as raging in Little Rock, Ark. Other fires: J. S. Hendee's photograph establishment and other property, at Augusta, Me.—loss $48,000, insured for $20,000; Spengler & Son's brewery, at St. Louis, Mo.—loss $25,000, insured for $15,000; Scram & Bros.' picture-frame establishment, at Chicago, Ill.—loss $20,000, insured......Louis Remise poisoned himself at Newark, N. J......Miss Mary Fenity was fatally burned by an explosion of coal oil at Beaver Dam, Md......Cornelius Crowley, aged 21, of Westfield, Mass., was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for rape.

⁂ Dec. 15: Five murderers were released from jail at Bardstown, Ky., by masked men......A fight occurred at New Orleans, La., between the police and negroes who were trying to gain possession of a prisoner. A dozen or more negroes and four whites were wounded......Col. Fairfax of Virginia was dangerously stabbed by Frank Schell at Washington, D. C......An excursion train was thrown from the track near Lafayette, Ind., a number of persons being severely injured......James Martin and William Tinnesey were burned to death at Jerseyville, Ill......Cable-dispatches stated that Russian agents were inciting the Bulgarians to demand Russian occupation; that the Greeks resident in Turkey express devotion to the Government, but protest against its granting concessions exclusively to the Slav population; that Serbia has requested Russia to commission Gen. Ignatieff to represent Serbia at the conference; that many Russian soldiers are ill from fatigue and exposure; that the programme submitted by prominent Bulgarians to Lord Salisbury includes general amnesty for political offenders, self-government, complete religious equality before the law, decrease of taxation, temporary foreign occupation to disarm the Mahometans, and the guaranteeing reforms by the powers; that the loss to the Union du Credit Bank, Brussels, Belgium, by the defalcation of its president (who had been arrested in Paris) is about 4,000,000 francs, and that the manager failed in an attempt to commit suicide; that M. Simon's declaration of policy as President of the French Council was generally received favorably; that the relations of Spain and the Vatican are not very friendly; that the bark Emma and Carl capsized off the Orkney Islands Dec. 5, seven persons perishing; and that General Moriones has been appointed Governor of the Philippine Islands.......Alfred T. Colony of Keene, N. H., shot himself through the head with a rifle......At Youngstown, O., Chas. M. Sterling was sentenced to be hanged March 28......Mrs. Charles Fuller died from the effects of fright during a fire at Hallowell, Me......A. H. Wilson of Hubbardstown, Mass., aged 60, died from injuries sustained by being thrown from a wagon......Two convicts named Howe and Clark jumped from a railroad train near Amsterdam, N. Y., and were probably killed......Losses by fire: The post-office, express-offices and other buildings at Bolivar, Tenn.—loss $200,000, insured for $20,000; losses by the Little Rock, Ark., fire, $140,000, insured for $50,000; Deming, Palmer & Co.'s Capital Flouring Mill, at San Francisco, Cal.—loss about $25,000, partially insured; Whitall, Tatum & Co.'s packing and storing house, at Millville, N. J.—loss $6,000......Mrs. Chas. Berth of this city was probably fatally shot by her husband, who claimed that the shooting was accidental......At White Plains, N. Y., Frederick Everson, colored, was acquitted of the charge of murdering Catherine Burke......The schooner Anne M. capsized off Riverdale, N. Y., Michael Coyle and Peter Monaghan being drowned......Chas. Schweitzer was suffocated during a fire in Brooklyn, N. Y.

⁂ Dec. 16: Giovanni Govachini of Boston, Mass., was sentenced to life-imprisonment for the murder of M. Avignone......A destructive gale swept over the great lake region and the Atlantic coast, considerable damage being done on land and at sea. The schooner Henry Elliott was wrecked near Shinnecock, L. I., Capt. Butler, his wife and child losing their lives......At Philadelphia, Samuel Josephs, George McGowan and Henry Marcus were acquitted of the charge of conspiring to perpetrate election frauds......Cable-telegrams announced that Serbia is ready to make reparation for the forcible detention and searching of an Austrian mail steamer by Serbian police; that, according to news received from the conference in high political quarters in Berlin, Germany, a Russo-Turkish war is inevitable, but Russia will endeavor to protract the conference until she is prepared to make an irresistible assault; that the Turkish armaments are being pressed forward, and troops are marching to the Danubian and Asiatic frontiers; that the Parliamentary Committee on the Revision of the Penal Code in Italy voted in favor of abolishing the death-penalty; that great excitement prevailed in the Basque Provinces, Spain, in consequence of the seizure by Gen. Quesada of the Treasury of the Provincial Deputation (which was found empty), because of a refusal to pay the tax of 18,500,000 reals; and that the serious conflict which existed between the German Parliament and the Federal Council was at an end, by reason of compromise......Losses by fire: George H. Friend & Co.'s paper-mill, the railroad depot, and other buildings at Carrollton, O.—loss about $85,000, insurance $25,000; fifteen buildings on Cumberland Levee, at Cairo, Ill.—loss $16,000, insured for about $6,000; the St. Charles Hotel, Toledo, O.—loss $10,000, insurance $6,000; John P. Connolly's house, at Flushing, N.Y.—loss $10,500, insured for $8,000; Samuel Herbert's barns, at Concord, N. H.—loss $5,000; John West's barn, near Busking Ridge, N. J.—loss $2,500; the coast steamer Alice Virgie, at Georgetown—loss $7,350......J. P. Perkins was fatally poisoned at Fair Haven, Ct., a drug clerk giving him hellebore for valerian......Dennis Mahoney was run over and killed on the Boston and Lowell Railroad, Mass......The law taxing "drummers" $50 was repealed by the Alabama Legislature....A man, supposed to be J. Marriott, committed suicide by jumping into Chesapeake Bay......James Lyon was killed on the railroad near Mendon, Vt......Four hundred employes of the Engraving and Printing Bureau, at Washington, D. C., were discharged......John Hageman was shot, perhaps fatally, by a constable named Pancoast, at Juliustown N J.

⁂ Dec 17: It was stated that the object of Senator Morton's hasty departure from Washington on the 14th was to look after the safety of war-stores in Indianapolis, Ind......Daniel Bowley, aged 59, a lawyer residing in Jersey City, N. J., drowned himself by leaping from the bow of a ferry-boat........Elkanah Ingalls and wife were suffocated by smoke in their residence at Providence, R. I......A loss of over $150,000 was occasioned by the burning of the bleachery and kier-house of Knight & Co., at Pontiac, R. I. Other fires: the post-office, telegraph office, hotel and other buildings, near Montreal, Canada—loss $20,000; George Newhall & Co.'s saw and planing mill, near Greenfield, Ind.—loss $15,000, uninsured; Mrs. Lebbeus Chapman Jr.'s residence, at Teaneck, N. J.—loss $14,000, insured for $10,000; the Arcade Building, at Detroit, Mich.—loss $10,000; Byet & Bullen's tannery and S. Blaisdell Jr. & Co.'s waste storerooms, at Chicopee, Mass.—loss $18,000, insured for $9,000......Foreign advices were to the effect that the Federal troops had gained a great victory over the rebels in Colombia, C. A.; that considerable damage was occasioned by an earthquake which occurred in Chili, S. A., in November; that the labors of the preliminary conference at Constantinople, Turkey, had virtually ended, the plenipotentiaries having arrived at an understanding, and referred to their Governments for definite instructions; that the Porte rejects any proposition of foreign occupation, or to cede any territory to Montenegro or Serbia; that the Russian Gen. Nikitine will assume command of the Russian troops in Serbia; that the formal conference is expected to meet Dec. 21; that clerical and radical hostility to the new ministry has been developed in France; that a conflict between the Senate and Chamber of Deputies also excites apprehension; that the Khedive of Egypt is dissatisfied with his American military officers, and will not renew their contracts; that large numbers of starving people were flocking into Madras, India; that the amendments to the Judicial bills in favor of the press had been abandoned in the German Parliament; and that Senor Gonzales, in the Cortes, proposed to annul the Cuban loan, because of its exorbitant terms......Dr. F. Clay Maddux of Baltimore, Md., was indicted by the Grand Jury for criminal malpractice upon Mary Brocker, aged 19......While endeavoring to force an entrance into Jacob Stimmitt's residence, at Beaver Dale, Pa., Edward Skiverton was shot and mortally wounded by the former......August Wosch, a sewing-machine agent, eloped from Baltimore, Md., with his employer's daughter, Miss Emma Reinhard, aged 17. He is married......It was stated that a verdict of murder in the first degree was rendered on the 16th at Mauch Chunk, Pa., against Thomas P. Fisher, and in the second degree against Patrick McKenna, charged with the killing of Morgan Powell. They are "Molly Maguires."

DEATH'S DOINGS.

Weekly Record of the Decease of Prominent Individuals.

COMPILED EXPRESSLY FOR THE NEW YORK CLIPPER.

ADAMS, Mrs. Elizabeth S., D.D.—A female physician of this city—here, Dec. 14.

ANDERSON, Andrew—A native of France, and a resident of Philadelphia. He is said to have been upwards of 100 years old—that city, Dec. 13.

ALLEN, Helena B—Wife of Colonel Vanderbilt Allen, and daughter of the late Alfred R. Mount—Tivoli-on-Hudson, Dec. 14.

BARTLETT, Gen. William Francis—Born in Haverhill, Mass., on June 6, 1840, and graduated from Harvard University. He entered into military service on April 17, 1861, as one of the New England Guards; on July 10, 1861, he became a captain in the Twentieth Mass. Vols.; on Nov. 12, 1862, colonel of the Forty-ninth Mass. Vols.; on Aug. 17, 1863, colonel of the Fifty-ninth; and on June 22, 1864, brigadier-general of volunteers. In the Peninsular campaign he lost a leg, and the wooden one replacing it was carried away at Petersburg, Va., whereupon he was taken prisoner. Being exchanged in May, 1865, he was assigned to the command of the First Division of the Ninth Army Corps—Springfield, Mass., Dec. 17.

BAYLEY, George R.—Resident engineer of the Eads Jetties, New Orleans, La.—there, Dec. 14, of heart-disease, aged 54.

CHENEY, Horace R.—Boston lawyer. He was the son of Rev. O. B. Cheney, president of Bates College, Me. He graduated at Bowdoin College in 1863, and for quite a while was a school-teacher. In 1871 he was appointed assistant to Hon. J. Wilder May, District-attorney for Suffolk County, Mass. This office he resigned to devote himself to private practice—Philadelphia, Dec. 14, aged 32.

CUMMING, Sara—Daughter of Alex. M. Cumming, and granddaughter of the late Chief-justice Hornblower—Princeton, N. J., Dec. 11.

CARON, Hon. Rene Edward—Lieutenant-governor of the Province of Quebec. He was very popular—Quebec, Canada, Dec. 14.

CORSON, Stillwell—Of the firm of Miles, Corson & Co., Philadelphia—there, Dec. 12, aged 70.

COZZENS, William C.—Born in Newport, R. I., Aug. 12, 1811, and for thirty years he was the leading drygoods merchant in that place. He was its Mayor in 1855-6; in April, 1862, he was elected to the Senate, and in February following he became *ex-officio* Governor of the State. For many years he was president of the Rhode Island Union Bank and the Redwood Library—Newport, Dec. 17.

DEYO, Cornelia B.—Wife of Dr. Nathaniel Deyo—Newburg, N. Y., Dec. 16.

DELAVAN, Joseph W. D. S.—A well-known druggist of Philadelphia—there, Dec. 11, aged 53.

DYER, JAMES—Ex-champion Cornish wrestler. Died at New Cross, Kent, Eng., Nov. 24, aged 67. He never wrestled for money.

DANIELS, Horace—A leading citizen of Lincoln, Central Falls, R. I., and a member of the manufacturing house of Green & Daniels—there, Dec. 14.

DICKSON, James—A native of Berwick-on-Tweed, Eng., but for many years a resident of Savannah, Ga.—Newark, N. J., about Dec. 14, aged 72.

FLORES, Leonor De Ruiz—Wife of Antonio Flores, late Minister to the United States from Ecuador—Quito, recently.

GRATTAN, Mrs. H. P.—An actress in this country for forty years. (See City Summary)—this city, Dec. 14.

GOLDSMITH, Jane—Grandneice of Oliver Goldsmith, the English poet—Home for the Aged, Halifax, N. S., recently.

HARDIE, Gen. James A.—Graduated at the Military Academy, West Point, in 1843, and in 1844 was its Assistant-professor of Geography, History and Ethics. At the outbreak of the Mexican War he was assigned to the First Regiment New York Volunteers, as major, a commission he held until Oct. 26, 1848. He was made a first-lieutenant in the regular army on March 3, 1847, and from Dec. 7, 1853, to May 3, 1855, was aid-de-camp to Brevet Brig.-gen. Wool. In October, 1857, he was promoted to a captaincy, and in 1861, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, was assigned to the staff of Gen. McClellan, under whom he was Assistant Adjutant-general of the Army of the Potomac, and at the Battle of Fredericksburg he was on the staff of General Burnside. He was made colonel and inspector-general of volunteers on March 24, 1864; brigadier-general by brevet, March 3, 1865, and also major-general on the same day; and colonel and inspector-general of the regular army, Jan. 8, 1872. Death announced from Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.

HOUGHTON, Dr. John R.—A member of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and father of Miss Helen Houghton the actress. Of apoplexy—Philadelphia, Dec. 11, aged 59.

HOOVER, Henry—Master shipjoiner at the Washington (D. C.) Navy-yard. He was a native of Philadelphia, and at one time was Naval Constructor. Of paralysis—Washington, Dec. 17.

HISSON, Julia—A French operatic artist, who in Paris, in 1868, made her debut in Leonora. In 1873, while singing in "Il Trovatore," she overtasked her strength and never reappeared, dying of consumption—Paris, about Dec. 1, aged 27.

KELLY, Rev. James—Pastor of the R. C. Church of St. Stephens, Nicetown, Pa. It is said that in 1861 he organized the first Catholic Total-abstinence Beneficial Society in that State—a statement which is surprising when the time (only fifteen years ago) is taken into consideration—Nicetown, Dec. 9, aged 69.

LONDON, D. H.—An old resident of Richmond, Va., who for the past fifteen years had done business in this city—Richmond, Va., Dec. 7.

LIBBY, Ira Allen—Born in Strafford County, N. H. Came to this city and entered the drygoods firm of Clark, Libby & Co., of New York, which failed during the panic of 1857. Since that time he had resided in private—Brooklyn, N. Y., Dec. 14, aged 63.

McCARTHY, Daniel J.—Of the firm of John G. White & Co., Philadelphia—there, Dec. 11, aged 34.

MACKINTOSH, Annie J.—Eldest daughter of the late Dr. D. Mackintosh of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada—this city, Dec. 16.

MAUNDER, Mrs. Eleanor—Aunt of Dr. W. Thurman of this city—here, Dec. 14, aged 73.

PATRIZI, Cardinal—Dean of the Sacred College, and Archbishop of Ostia and Velletie, Archpriest of the Basilica of St. John of Lateran, and Grand Prior of the Order of Malta in Rome. He was born in Sienna on Sept. 4, 1798, and was created a Cardinal on July 11, 1836. The present is the second time within six weeks that the announcement of his death has been cabled—Rome, Italy, about Dec. 17, aged 78.

PRADUCE, Mme.—Once famous as a singer at the Opera Comique, Paris—there, recently, aged 70.

PAUL, Captain George—A veteran New England shipbuilder—Medway, Mass., about Dec. 14, aged about 70.

PERCIVAL, Thomas C.—Actively engaged in the China and East India trade as far back as 1827, he and his father being shipping merchants in Philadelphia—there, Dec. 13, aged 74.

RILEY, John M.—In 1854-6 Clerk of the Common Council of Philadelphia. Later he was a collector of internal revenue—that city, Dec. 11, aged 56.

SCOFIELD, Capt. John S.—During the Rebellion he served in the 150th N. Y. Vols.—Glenham, Dutchess County, Dec. 11.

STRONG, Dr. Henry T.—Physician of this city—here, Dec. 12, aged 31.

SILLON, Lydia Priscilla—Some thirty years ago she founded the Protestant Sisters of England. She died at an advanced age—England, recently.

THORN, Mrs. Mary J.—Widow of the well-known Eugene Thorn of this city—here, Dec. 15.

TOWN, Theodore N.—Printer and stationer in Philadelphia—there, Dec. 9, aged 67.

VAN BUREN, Smith T.—Last surviving son of ex-President Martin Van Buren. His mind had been enfeebled for many years—Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Dec. 11, aged 60.

WRIGHT, Robert C.—During the Rebellion he was lieutenant-colonel of the Forty-second Regiment N. Y. S. V.—this city, Dec. 14, aged 38.

WINSLOW, Henry C.—A prominent shipowner and commission merchant in Buffalo, N. Y.—that city, Dec. 14.

WETHERILL, Hamlet A.—Until recently a member of the Philadelphia firm of Coe, Wetherill & Co., advertising agents. He had prior to that been a reporter on *The Daily News*, *The Press*, *The Age*, and *The Telegraph* of that city—Philadelphia, Dec. 14, aged 37.

WORTHROP, Miss Sally—New Milford, Ct., Dec. 16, aged 100 years 5 months.

THE BROOKLYN DISASTER.

THE FIRE-MARSHAL'S REPORT.

Fire-marshal Patrick Keady, having concluded his investigation, on Dec. 14 presented to the Brooklyn Board of Police and Excise his report on the fire in the Brooklyn Theatre. As will be seen, after reviewing the testimony of the witnesses, he very properly censures the management for not providing adequate means for extinguishing fire, and blames the actors for making the appeal they did to the audience; which, although done with the best intentions, was, we think, under the existing circumstances, an inconsiderate action, resulting in a greater loss of life than would have occurred had the people at once commenced to leave the house. The report reads thus:

My opinions and conclusions in relation to the late fire at the Brooklyn Theatre are briefly these:

First.—There were two separate and distinct fires in that building only a short time previous to the fire of the 5th inst. One took place on the 25th of November last, in a curtain in the box-office (?), and was sufficient to cause more or less of a panic among the audience, many of whom stood up to leave. The other took place, in or about a rubber gas-pipe on the stage, a few weeks before. I cannot say that the lessees of the building knew of these fires personally, but their employes did.

Second.—Proper precautions against fire do not seem to have been taken by Shook & Palmer or their employes after these two warnings. They did not see that such facilities as were provided by the owners of the building for the extinguishment of fires were kept in proper order and ready for immediate use. It seems there was a fire-hydrant or "fire-plug" on or near the stage, but it does not appear that there was any fire-hose attached to it on the night of the fire, or that any of the employes knew how to use it, or that they attempted to use it.

Third.—There seemed to be a want of discipline among the stage-hands as to what they should do in such cases. Instead of giving the alarm immediately to the Police or Fire Department, they attempted to suppress the flames with a pole. There was a fire-engine, one of the best and quickest in the city, within two short blocks of that theatre, but the firemen were not notified until the flames had gained too much headway. Immediate notice to the Fire Department is the first step necessary in case of fire; but this does not seem to have been understood by the employes of the Brooklyn Theatre.

Fourth.—It seems to me, if the audience had been notified when the fire was first discovered by the stage-hands, they could have got out of the building safely. The omission to do this discreetly made the panic all the greater when the people saw the fire. The effect of the request of the actors to the audience to sit down may be construed in two ways. Some who were there claim that it prevented a greater panic; others, that the delay caused thereby increased the loss of life. However well meant, I think the effect of such advice on this occasion was very disastrous, both to the audience and the actors themselves.

Fifth.—"The means of exit from the gallery," while good enough for ordinary purposes and better than is now furnished in other public buildings in New York and Brooklyn, were not good enough in case of fire or panic. The means of exit from the other parts of the house were good. Had it been otherwise, the loss of life would have been greater than it is. One witness, Mr. Charles F. Dougherty, who was in the gallery, got out through a small window used for ventilation, and was probably the last man to leave there alive. He says the people would not have had time to escape the fury of the flames if there had been two stairs on each side of the gallery, instead of one.

Sixth.—The fire was caused by the borders (a portion of the scenery) taking fire from the border-lights. These lights were covered with tin on the side facing the audience, and with wire-netting on the other side.

Seventh.—There ought to be now a thorough overhauling of all our public buildings, schools, academies, hospitals, theatres, and places of large assemblages. It cannot be done a moment too soon. If this is not done, the lessons of this fire and those of the fire of the Home for the Aged in Bushwick avenue, on the 7th of May last, when eighteen persons were burned to death, will be lost.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Patrick Keady, Police Fire-marshal.

Brooklyn, Dec. 14, 1876.

With the report was an official list of the dead. It gives the number of bodies—or parts of bodies—recovered from the ruins as 284. The coroner's figures are 295.

FUNERAL OF CUMBERSON.

The remains of John E. Cumberson, who was in charge of the flies in the theatre, and who died from the effects of injuries then received, in the Long Island College Hospital on Sunday, Dec. 10, were buried from his late residence, 134 Prospect street, on Dec. 14. The interment took place at Cypress Hills Cemetery. There was a fair representation of actors present, and the attaches of the Brooklyn and Park Theatres attended in a body.

On the same day the bodies of Mrs. S. A. Smythe and Mrs. S. T. Simpson, mother and daughter, who perished together in the conflagration, were buried. These were the last victims of the fire remaining unburied.

THE CORONER'S INQUEST.

Coroner Simms, on Wednesday evening, Dec. 13, began his examination into the cause of the death of the victims. The evidence so far elicited is only corroborative of that given at the Fire-marshal's investigation.

What the Profession has done for the Relief of the Sufferers.

NEW YORK CITY.

The San Francisco Minstrels gave the gross receipts of a matinee benefit performance Dec. 14, which yielded $64.50. The manager and company of the Bowery Theatre gave a matinee and an evening performance which yielded—matinee, $174.75; evening, $387.75; total, $562.50. Edwin Booth and company of the Lyceum Theatre gave a matinee performance Dec. 13, which yielded about $373. The Eagle Theatre management and company contributed $236.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

A week of benefits for the Brooklyn sufferers was inaugurated in Philadelphia at the Walnut-street Theatre on the afternoon of Dec. 11. The sudden indisposition of Chas. R. Thorne Jr. necessitated a change in the programme, so that but one act of "Camille" was given (with Miss Charlotte Thompson as Camille, and Mr. C. R. Thorne Jr. as Armand Duval), together with two acts of "Merry Wives of Windsor," and Mrs. Emma Waller in the second act of "Guy Mannering;" the Æolian Quartet also volunteering. The receipts amounted to $636.25, to which the managers, John S. Clark and George K. Goodwin, added $100, and the amount was forwarded to Brooklyn. On Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 12, at the Chestnut-street Theatre, a performance of "Twelfth Night" was given, together with recitations by Messrs. William D. Gemmill and F. F. Mackay. The performance netted the handsome sum of $1,367.56, and the sales of the programme realized $75 more. On the afternoon of Wednesday, Dec. 13, the Arch-street Theatre gave a performance consisting of three acts of "Led Astray" and one act of "Forbidden Fruit," together with musical selections by Mrs. Everest and an address by Mrs. Daniel Dougherty. Charles R. Thorne Jr., who was announced to appear as Rudolphe in "Led Astray," unfortunately was unable to be present, and Aug. Pitou kindly consented to take his place, and acquitted himself in a creditable manner. The sum realized was $749.75, together with $250 contributed by Mrs. John Drew......At the Kiralfys' Alhambra Palace a performance of "Azurine" was given on the afternoon of Thusday, Dec. 14, Miss Ethel Lynton volunteering in vocal selections. On the afternoon of the 15th inst. the Grand Central Theatre gave a variety entertainment, and Carncross & Dixey's Minstrels had a benefit performance on the evening of the last-mentioned date. Sweatnam's Minstrels wound up the week's round of benefits on the 16th inst., when C. E. Brewster the boy ventriloquist, Charles Kelly and Harry Budworth volunteered in addition to the regular company. The receipts of the benefits given by the Kiralfys' Grand Central Variety Theatre, Carncross & Dixey's Minstrels and Sweatnam's Minstrels have not yet been made public. W. A. J. Fiss & Co. of Philadelphia offered to post bills free of charge for any entertainment given in that city for the benefit of the Brooklyn sufferers.

PITTSBURG, PA.

Maggie Mitchell and the company of the Pittsburg Opera-house gave a performance Dec. 11, which yielded $352.

JERSEY CITY, N. J.

Oliver Doud Byron and the company of the Jersey City Theatre gave a matinee performance Dec. 13, yielding either $50 or $56.75, both amounts having been reported.

NEWARK, N. J.

A matinee was given in the Opera-house by the companies of Ward's Opera-house and the Metropolitan Theatre, and the following volunteers: The Boisset Family, Baby Bindley, the Jewell Brothers, Frank, George, and others. It netted $131.85.

BALTIMORE, MD.

At the Grand Opera-house the Emily Soldene Opera Troupe gave a matinee Dec. 13, which yielded about $250.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

A matinee was given in the National Theatre by J. Murphy and a company. The amount of receipts has not yet been made public.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Camillo Urso donated the entire receipts of her first concert, the amount being $900, currency.

The total amount of subscriptions and other donations received from all sources to Dec. 16 was $20,112.30.

West-end Sixteen.—This is the somewhat singular title of an amateur athletic association recently formed in Boston, Mass., by John P. Williams, George Cofran, John D. Bradstreet, Chas. E. Lennon, Miles Curtis, Chas. L. Brooks, Claude Merrill, Rufus Davies, Parker Eustis, John Gorham, Fremont Johnson, Henry Burrows, Frank B. Beck, James Stevens and Orrin Jones. The officers are Parker Eustis, president; Charles L. Brooks, secretary; Frank B. Beck, treasurer. In a note the secretary says: "We expect to have a Spring tournament, open to amateurs, in the month of May next. We have among us an amateur that has made the best amateur time in or around Boston this season, viz., one mile in 4:47¼, at Jamaica Plains, in September, and 4:54 at the Cleomandra picnic in August. We expect, also, to have a skating-tournament about Christmas, open to our club only."

The Caledonian Club of San Francisco, Cal., recently elected the following officers: Chief, D. A. Macdonald; chieftains, James McLeod, Hugh Fraser, Hugh Macleay, and N. Carmichael; honorary surgeon, Dr. H. S. Van Vlack.

A MURDOCH MEMORIAM.

Frank Queen, Esq.—*Dear Sir:* In the very comprehensive biographical sketch of the unfortunate young actor Harry S. Murdoch, who perished in the flames at the Brooklyn Theatre on Dec. 5, 1876, you omitted all mention of the engagement he filled with Mrs. F. B. Conway at the Park Theatre, Brooklyn, when that lady first assumed its management. As Mr. Murdoch considered this one of the most important of his many engagements, I take the liberty of calling your attention to it. His debut was made in Rochester, N. Y., where he remained for about nine months; he then came directly to Brooklyn, being engaged as walking gentleman in the first company collected by the Conways, and it was during this engagement that he laid the foundation for his subsequent brilliant career. Murdoch always spoke in the highest complimentary terms of Mr. and Mrs. Conway, for he fully appreciated the valuable advice and instruction they gave him at the beginning of his professional life. He remained for two seasons, and gave many evidences of great versatility and unusual quickness of study. On several occasions he was called upon to assume characters at literally a moment's notice, and always acquitted himself to the satisfaction and sometimes to the surprise of the management. Upon one evening, when "East Lynne" was to be performed, Mr. Conway, who was cast for Archibald Carlisle, was unable to act, owing to illness, and Harry Murdoch was summoned to take the part without an instant of preparation. Murdoch was cast for Richard Hare, and was dressed for the part when called upon to change for Carlisle. He undertook the task, and carried the performance triumphantly through, studying scene after scene while waiting in the wings for his cues to go on. He was thanked and complimented by Mrs. Conway (who played Lady Isabel) upon his truly remarkable achievement.

The writer was once conversing with Harry's brother Frank (author of "Davy Crockett") about the wonderful quickness displayed by him (Harry) in studying parts, when he said: "Yes, Harry can play a character after reading the lines over two or three times, and I am sorry for it." I naturally asked why, when he continued: "Because he learns the lines so quickly that I am afraid he will not give sufficient study to his *characters* to represent them properly." Frank's fears were not realized, for H. S. Murdoch proved to be a brilliant exponent of character, as his performance of Eustace Lawton in "Conscience," with Miss Morris, a few weeks ago, and Pierre the cripple in "The Two Orphans" at the time of his death, amply exhibited.

During his engagement at the Park he also first developed his talent as a singer, giving all of Locke's music in "Macbeth," in which play he performed Hecate. He also played musical farces with Emily King, and in various ways showed his great fitness for the profession of his choice. The writer was intimately acquainted with the subject of this letter, and he had made predictions for his future greatness, which predictions he has frequently heard echoed since the great disaster, coupled with the lines:

"Of all sad words of tongue or pen,
The saddest are these—it might have been!"

Respectfully, Hurwood.

Brooklyn, Dec. 15, 1876.

[The "two seasons" with the Conways were merely fractional ones. Mr. Murdoch began with them on April 4, 1864, when they assumed the management of the Park, and thence, as recounted in his obituary, went in September following to the Chestnut-street Theatre, Philadelphia. He was restless, and never uninterruptedly spent two seasons at one house, Boston being the only city in which he ever spent two consecutive regular seasons. He had wished himself out of Brooklyn, and back in Boston, just before he died. The fractional season of 1864 at the Park is clearly the one referred to by "Hurwood," for it was on May 14 that the Conways brought out "Macbeth," and on May 16 that they produced "East Lynne." Mr. Murdoch was then doing a little of everything, inclusive of Dutch business in "Cudjoe's Cave," and was mainly noticeable, apart from his capacity for tudy, for a peculiar, unprofessional stage-walk.—Ed. Clipper.]

Wrestling.—Wm. J. Austin of this city engaged in a bout at Græco-Roman wrestling with Frank Robinson of Lawrence, Mass., at Saunders' Hall, in the latter place, Dec. 16. The contest was announced as a match for $400, best three in five falls, and Robinson proved victorious, after, judging from the following brief telegraphic account, a determined encounter: "In the first bout Robinson threw Austin to the floor, and a severe struggle to put the latter on his back ensued, Austin acting a most entirely on the defensive. The round lasted 2 hours and 19 minutes, resulting in a fall for Robinson. Austin was much exhausted, and his body badly chafed from his more than two-hours' contact with the floor. The second and third falls were gained by Robinson in five and four minutes respectively."

Col. McLaughlin writes to us from Boston, Mass., to the effect that his wrestling match with Owens is progressing all right, though no date had yet been fixed for the decision of the contest. McLaughlin's ankle (wrenched in his match with Murphy) had given him considerable trouble, but it is now getting along nicely, and the Colonel expects to stand as firm as ever on his pins when the day of battle arrives.

The first curling match of the season was played at Haledon, near Paterson, N. J., on the 15th, between the Ivanhoe and Paterson Clubs. The ice was in splendid condition, and the players worked finely, but the Ivanhoes were too much for their opponents, and won easily by a score of 52 to 26, two rinks being played.

Curling.—The Jersey City (N. J.) Curling Club is now officered by J. C. Bailey, president; R. W. Moore, vice-president; secretary, J. C. Clarke; treasurer, W. W. Edwards. J. C. Bailey is also the representative to the National Club.

BILLIARDS.

Brevities.—George F. Slosson has been playing heavy billiards in New Orleans. The playing-off of those New York ties in which he is interested has been postponed until Tuesday of this week, by which time he may be back here......A handicap fifteen-ball tournament has been instituted at the room of the Brothers Dion, Brooklyn......Pinpool is rampant in Fernandina, Fla......At Bennett's room, Pittsburg, on Dec. 11, Page of Kansas City and Tony Honing of Cleveland crossed cues in two games of 200 points each, three-ball caroms, Page winning the first by about 30, and Honing the second by about 75......At Trowbridge's room, Salt Lake City, a few nights ago, two young fellows played billiards for a girl to whom both had been paying court......Capt. Tom Reeves at this city has again set out for Florida......Louis Guillette, withdrawing from the Whitehall-street room in which he has passed the last four years, will take charge of the new room in Vesey street, which is to be opened on Dec. 20......The Presidential complication has knocked the life out of billiards in Washington, D. C......Jimmy Walker, formerly in the manufacturing business in Vesey street, has opened a room with three tables in the Stevens House......The prize for the player pocketing the greatest number of balls at "fifteen-pool" within a given time, at the room No. 139 Fulton street, has been awarded Joseph Piet, one of the contestants in the wonderful "amateur" tournament in Brooklyn two years ago.

Gallagher Hails Shaw.—Under date of Cleveland, O., Dec. 13, Thomas J. Gallagher, three-ball champion of Ohio, writes:

Editor New York Clipper.—*Dear Sir:* In your last issue I observe that Louis Shaw, writing from Evansville, Ind., wishes to remind me that he is billiard champion of the Northwest and Southwest, and is open for a challenge for the championship emblem. This statement is inspired by a report that I claimed the championship in question. Now, I wish to inform Mr. Shaw that I never made any such claim, as to the origin of which I have no knowledge. As to his being open for challenge, I have simply to say that, whenever the emblem is accessible through the recognized stakeholder, he can depend on my custom. Besides, if he really wishes a *match for money, exclusive of all titles,* I will accommodate him without any delay. He has only to signify where he can be found and how much he desires to play for to get a match. Hoping this will afford Mr. Shaw an opportunity to vindicate his title, I remain,

Very respectfully yours, Thos. J. Gallagher.

Hickey Beaten by Frank Dion.—At Nordheimer's Hall, Montreal, to which city John Hickey has returned after an absence of three or four years, he recently attempted to give Frank Dion 100 in 500 points of three-ball billiards, for $100 a side. Hickey scored but 466, his best run being 31, while Dion's was 29. The referee was Mr. McDougall. A correspondent states that, at the close of the game, Hickey's backers offered to pit him against Dion again, for double the money or more.

Tournament in Binghamton, N. Y.—Mr. E. Boss and J. E. Payfair, comprising the firm of M. E. Boss & Co. of Binghamton, N. Y., advise us that they will on Jan. 25, 1877, institute a tournament at their rooms for purses aggregating $400, open to all players resident in Central and Southern New York.

BOWLING.

THE BOWLING TOURNAMENT.

The fourth game of the tournament series was contested by the Pin Knights and Nassaus Dec. 5, at Kettler's, in Williamsburg, L. I., the former winning by a score of 1,509 to 1,492. On the 7th the fifth game was played at the Empire Club Rooms, this city, the contestants being the Mutuals and Terpsichores. The latter came off victorious by a score of 1,512 to 1,428. At least two hundred gentlemen assembled at the Empire Club, Broadway and Tenth street, on the night of Dec. 14, to witness the sixth match for the championship of the National Bowling Association. Without any delay Mr. Orr, the champion sculler of the Juniors at Greenwood Lake, and captain of the Nassau Bowling Club, was decided on as umpire, and the game commenced at 8.30 P. M., the Pin Knights of Williamsburg and the Athletics of Brooklyn being the contestants. At the end of the first frame the Pin Knights led by 13 pins; but in the next frame they became completely demoralized, and their opponents at the end of this frame were 10 pins ahead. From this out the Athletics had it all their own way, rolling a very steady game, and one of their team, Schlick, making ten-strikes and spares by the dozen. In the seventh inning, by courageous and beautiful play on the part of Snyder, he making four strikes in succession, and of Condit and E. Anderson of the Pin Knights, they came near making a tie of it; but it was of no use, as they were short of their best player, D. Anderson, and the Athletics were too many guns for them. The individual play of Schlick of the latter team and old reliable Anderson of the Pin Knights brought down the house. The following is the score:

ATHLETIC.		PIN KNIGHTS.	
Bartlett	176	Altenbrand	160
Schlick	202	C. Moller	135
Mayer	157	Struss	121
Moller	187	J. Snyder	148
Gerand	135	F. Condit	180
Delap	168	E. A. Obrig	153
Rofgar	146	G. Colon	141
Leonard	118	E. Anderson	190
Fries	177	J. Moller	170
Richardson	158	H. Finke	120
Total	1,624	Total	1,566

COCKING.

MAIN BETWEEN LONG ISLAND AND NEW JERSEY.

A main between two representative fanciers of Long Island and New Jersey was decided on Wednesday, Dec. 13, near Communipaw, N. J. The conditions were for each side to show fifteen birds, at weights ranging from 4lb 8oz. to 5lb 8oz., and to fight all that fell in for $25 a side each fight, and $200 a side the main. The New Jersey fowls were the favorites at the start, the betting being $100 to $75 that they would win the main. The heavy weights, 5lb 8oz. birds, were first pitted, and after a sharp contest of 3 minutes the Long Islander won. Next came two 5lb 2oz. birds, and again was the Long Island representative victorious. In the third battle fortune favored the New Jersey bird, but the fourth was won by Long Island after a brief contest of 6 minutes. The betting was now in favor of Long Island, which had won three fights to New Jersey's one. The fifth fight was also won by Long Island; but the tide of fortune now turned, and New Jersey scored the sixth, seventh and eighth battles, which made honors even, each side having won four fights. The ninth battle was won by New Jersey, and the tenth (in which the light-weights were pitted) by Long Island. Great excitement now prevailed, the scores being equal, and the next fight decided the main. The betting was heavy, with the call in favor of New Jersey. Two fine-looking birds were pitted, and, after a slashing fight of 4 minutes, the Long Island won, and thereby secured the main and money.

BASEBALL.

THE LEAGUE CONVENTION AND ITS WORK.

Among the objects sought to be attained by the League Association, as stated in the second article of their constitution, are the following: "To make baseball playing honorable and respectable," and *"To protect and promote the mutual interests of professional baseball clubs and professional baseball players."* In "the circular to the public," which the League issued at their recent convention in Cleveland, they state that:

For several years past, however, various evils had crept into the management and exposition of the game under the different systems that had been devised for its government. With the game and the evils the public are alike familiar, and the elevation of the one and extirpation of the other were the cardinal objects for which this League was formed a year ago, and for the accomplishment of which objects the League pledged its faith to the public.

Furthermore in this circular they say:

We hereby pledge ourselves to the public, individually and collectively, that, upon the production of such evidence in regard to any player, belonging to either of our respective clubs, in any game played during the last season, or that shall be played during the coming year, such player shall be instantly expelled from service and membership, and shall be forever debarred from playing in a League club. We not only proffer this pledge to the public, but we *earnestly request* their co-operation in this matter, both to the end that they may be satisfied of our determination to purify the game, and to vindicate honorable clubs and players who are justly sensitive under unfounded accusations of fraud.

Lastly, in reference to making the League Association an organization including every reputable professional club in the country, which it should do, they say that the mutual interests of both classes—viz., stock company and co-operative clubs—are best subserved by independent organization.

Let us see how far the legislation of the League at their late convention accords with the articles of their constitution, with their circular avowing the policy they aim to carry out, and with the rules they have adopted to "promote the interests of the professional class." At the meeting of the Board of Directors on Dec. 6 there were present Messrs. Apollonio, Fowle and Chase of the elected board, Messrs. Bulkeley and Cammeyer being absent. In the place of the former—the president of the Board and of the Association—Mr. Ferguson appeared as the club representative, and he was permitted to vote as a member of the Board. The vote, therefore, stood at two to two as regards East vs West, Messrs. Ferguson and Apollonio representing the Eastern clubs and Messrs. Fowle and Chase the Western. The first paper read by this Board was a formal citation, emanating from the four Western clubs of the League, against the Athletic and Mutual Clubs, charging them, not with fraudulent play, and, in fact, not with any violation of the League rules affecting the morality question of the objects aimed at by the League, but simply charging them with a failure to complete the series of games comprising each club's quota of the championship contests of the season. In reply to this charge the Athletic Club presented a document, in which they set forth in well-written terms the reason why they were unable to carry out their appointed programme, the pith of their statement being as follows:

The past season has been for our club a terribly disastrous one, financially, as is well known. Several circumstances, wholly beyond our control, conspired to cause this result, conspicuous among which were: First, the much greater attraction of the Centennial Exposition, which absorbed the whole attention of the public in Philadelphia during the past Summer, and, second, the unfortunate and unavoidable disabling by disease and injuries of several of our most important players, so that it is a matter of public record that the Athletic nine did not play a single game during the season with every man in his position. In spite of these unavoidable calamities, however, the Athletic Club would have struggled on and played every game, had it not in the Spring assumed and paid an old debt of some $5,600. This it did from the sense of honor that had always marked its transactions, believing that the debt should be paid, and not for a moment thinking that such action would, at a later date, put the club in a position of great embarrassment.

Accompanying the charges and the defense there was also a letter from Philadelphia signed by G. W. Bradley, Adrian C. Anson, and Joseph V. Battin, in which was set forth certain facts in connection with their having signed contracts to play with the Athletic Club. The bearing of this letter on the action taken by the Board in inflicting the penalty of expulsion upon the Athletic Club will be seen when it is known that these players had before agreed to play with the Chicago and St. Louis Clubs provided they could get released from their obligations with the Athletics. Another document presented to the Board for action was a request from the St. Louis Club to have the two games due that club from each of the Athletic and Mutual Clubs declared forfeited, by which the St. Louis Club would secure second position. Unluckily for the St. Louis gentlemen there was an important obstacle in the way, and that was that, if the Board declared these games forfeited, the two clubs in question must necessarily escape expulsion, and in such case they could hold their engaged players to their contracts. The matter having been duly discussed, the result was a vote of the Board, recommending the expulsion of the Athletic and Mutual Clubs, for one was just as amenable to the penalty under the ruling of the Board as the other.

In regard to the award of the championship, the Board decided the question by the statistical exhibit sent in by their Secretary, Mr. Young, the figures being the same as appeared in the closing record of the season published in THE CLIPPER, Chicago being first on the list, Hartford second and St. Louis third. It will be seen that the Board in the case of Bradley, Anson and Battin had "protected" those players, as they asked to be, by the expulsion of the Athletics. But in the case of another demand for "protection" made by Devlin of the Louisville Club, asking that his contract be annulled with that club, owing to their alleged failure to fulfill their agreement with him, the effect of a letter from the Louisville Club claiming the right to "discipline their men as they chose" led to a decision practically denying Devlin the same degree of protection accorded to Bradley and Anson, he being allowed to withdraw his complaint. In the case of the complaint presented by Ferguson against Bond, in which the former sought for "protection" against false charges made by Bond, he, too, was denied the protection solicited, the Board deciding, after arguing the question of the charges, and Bond's reply, "that they had no jurisdiction." After some business of minor importance, the Board of Directors adjourned.

THE CONVENTION WORK.

It will be seen from the above facts relating to the action taken by the Board of Directors that they inflicted as great a penalty on the Athletic and Mutual Clubs for their failure to play less than a tenth part of the games they were required to complete, as they could possibly have done had both clubs been guilty of the grossest acts of fraud. Now we will see what the convention proper did in endorsing the action of the Board of Directors. The convention organized with Mr. Apollonio in the chair in the absence of Mr. Bulkeley. The Association, having no vice-president, was obliged to elect a temporary chairman in the place of the absent president. The first business taken up was the report of the Board of Directors. The discussion of the question of the expulsion of the two clubs as advised by the Board was the principal business of the day's session, and it took up so much time that the convention had to finish its work of amending the constitution and rules on the day following. The question was argued on behalf of the Athletic Club by Mr. Thompson—no one appeared for the Mutuals, Mr. Cammeyer not caring to join the League this year—Mr. A. G. Mills of the Chicago Club, formerly connected with the Olympics of Washington, taking the Western side of the question. He is a fluent speaker and a practiced debater, and Mr. Thompson found him too powerful an adversary to cope with. The result of the discussion was the adoption of the report of the Board expelling the two clubs by the vote of Messrs. Apollonio, Chase, Hulbert, Keck, Fowle and Ferguson, the vote being unanimous. Besides these delegates, there were present in the room Messrs. A. G. Spalding, Harry Wright, A. G. Mills, G. W. Thompson, C. W. Johnstone and Lewis Meacham, the latter of *The Chicago Tribune*.

After this report had been disposed of, amendments to the constitution came up in order, and in the article concerning membership provision was made for the admission of new clubs at any time prior to the commencement of the championship season. By this rule clubs desiring admission to the League must make application to the League secretary—N. E. Young, Treasury Department, Washington—who will submit it to the League Clubs, who will vote on the question by correspondence. Clubs thus applying, however, must show themselves to be stock-company organizations, having a sufficient capital employed to insure their carrying out the appointed programme of club tours, and possessing a regularly engaged team strong enough to cope with the League organizations, for all others would be thrown out by a majority vote, without doubt. Practically, therefore, the League in this respect simply carry out the policy as shown in their circular, wherein they commend the general class of professional clubs to join an independent organization.

The article bearing upon disputes between clubs and players and complaints of misconduct was amended so as to admit of an immediate trial of the culprit players by the Board. In reference to the duration of contracts between clubs and players, the law was changed so as to annul all contracts the moment a club disbands. The number of games to be played for the championship will be decided by the number of clubs enrolled in the Association up to March 15. If the number is then limited to the six now in the League—which it is very likely to be—then the number of games to be played will be twelve by each club. If the number should be seven or eight, then the quota will be ten; and if ten clubs enter, the quota will be eight; and so on, according to the increase of membership. No games are to be forfeited except under the regular playing code. Therefore, if a club cannot play its quota all the games played are to be thrown out.

THE NEW RULES OF PLAY.

The amendments made to the playing rules involve no important changes in the fundamental laws of the game. Below will be found the principal changes made in the various sections.

RULE FIRST.—The ball to be played with by the League clubs during 1877 remains of the same weight and dimensions as before, viz., 5¼oz. in weight and 9¼in. in circumference, and composed of woolen yarn, covering an ounce-ball of hard rubber, and the whole covered with leather. The ball known last season as "Mahn's dead ball," having the ounce of rubber in it, was adopted as the League ball. The League are prohibited from using any ball in a match-game except it be furnished by the secretary.

THE BASES.—The bases—all except the home-base—have been enlarged so as to cover a space equal to fifteen inches square of surface. Previously, they were one foot square. The home-base is now to be placed so as to make its two outer lines those which converge to the point of the home-base corner. In other words, the base is now placed within the diamond—instead of outside, as last season. An amendment was made to the rule applicable to the laying-down of foul-ball lines, etc., requiring lines to be drawn as boundaries for the players of the batting side, within which they are debarred from standing. This is to carry out the prohibitory clause in reference to players on the batting side standing within fifteen feet of the foul-ball lines.

RULE SECOND.—In this rule an amendment was made prohibiting the introduction of a substitute for a player in the nine after the close of the *second* inning, unless, of course, in cases of illness or injury, when the injured player can be replaced by another in any inning of a game. In the place of the five-minutes clause in regard to rain, it was decided that the game should finally end after rain had fallen half an hour.

RULE THIRD.—Sections two and three of this rule were stricken out, and the express prohibition which they contained relative to any player's being in any way concerned in any pool or bet on a match was replaced by the following section: "Any player who shall conspire with any person against the interest of his club, or by any conduct manifest a disposition to obstruct the management of his club, may be expelled. The club"—says the section—"is entitled to the best services of the player; and if any player becomes indifferent or careless in his play, *or from any cause becomes unable to render service satisfactory to his club, it may, at its option, refuse to pay salary for such time, or may cancel the contract of such player.*"

The application of this rule is as follows: Borden was engaged as pitcher of the Boston Club for two years, on the basis of a mistaken idea as to his effective play in his position. The question hitherto has been how to get rid of him, he not now being regarded as available. He will not do anything which can make him amenable to expulsion under previous rules, and therefore he still has to be paid; but under this new reading he can easily be disposed of. In fact, no player now in the League can consider his position as safe under the interpretation the letter of this rule admits of. If his pitching, catching or base-playing is not up to the standard expected, his contract can at once be annulled under the clause of "his services not being satisfactory to his club." This rule will equally apply to captains as well as to players.

There is one effect of this new rule, however, which should be beneficial—it ought to put every player in the nine on the *qui vive* to do his level best to win. There is not likely to be any shirking of one's duty in his position—any "kicking" against the commands of the captain, or any other of the many objectionable ways indulged in by League players last season—when it is known that under this new rule any such "unsatisfactory service" will result in the player's prompt forfeiture of pay, if not in his immediate expulsion; and, by another rule which has been adopted, expulsion means his being prohibited from joining any other League club.

The best work done by the Convention was the decidedly severe blow which they gave to revolving by the adoption of the amendment to the rule governing contracts. It was unanimously resolved by the Convention that no League club, *after March 15, 1877*, should be allowed to enter into contract with any player whose services any other club—*in or out of the League!*—should be entitled to by written contract. Neither can any player in any "outside" professional club be engaged for a League team after March 15, if said player is bound to the said club by any written or otherwise legal contract. All contracts become null and void the moment a club ceases to belong to the League.

RULE FOURTH.—The pitching department was not materially interfered with, and therefore the ball can still be delivered either by the slow or swift *toss*—the really and only "square" pitch—by a *jerk*, or by an *underhand throw*, the rule governing the delivery requiring the hand holding the ball to pass below the line of the *belt*. If it pass on the line of the belt it is a foul balk. It must pass *below* that line.

RULE FIFTH.—A good amendment was made to the rule defining high and low balls. Hitherto "waist-high" has been a rather indefinite term. Now the player's *belt* has been made the boundary-line, and "below the belt" will come into play in baseball as in the pugilistic circle. In other words, a low ball is now defined as one below the line of the "belt," and not lower than the knee of the player; while a high ball is one ranging from above the belt to the shoulder. A really waist-high ball is now a low ball.

The batsman's position has been practically restored to its old place. It is still six feet square, but the line of the home-base now runs through its centre, and this gives the batsman the privilege of standing three feet in front of the line or three feet back of it, as he did when he had to stand astride the line of the base in 1873. The batsman is now given out if he makes a strike at the ball with a view of balking the catcher. The rule is worded in such a way, however, as to leave it too much to the option of the umpire as to the intention of the striker.

RULE SIXTH.—Concerning running the bases, two amendments were made which ought to work well. One is that of obliging the base-runner from home to first base to keep within the line of the base. If he runs in towards the infield before touching first base, he is to be declared out. This is to prevent the trick of running in front of the base-player, to balk the latter in fielding the ball thrown to him. Of course it cannot apply to the other bases, as it is impossible to keep within the lines in running round. But it will apply in the case of running to a base when the runner has to stop. There is one change in Rule 6 which will conflict with the rule of "running out of the line of the bases," and that is that amendment which admits of a base-runner's "going behind a fielder and out of the line to avoid hitting said fielder when the latter is in the act of fielding the ball." In trying to avoid the obstruction, they have allowed the base-runner a chance to avoid being touched, which the rule prohibiting his running beyond the line of the bases to avoid the ball was intended to prevent.

The rule intended to nullify the effect of fair-foul hits, recently referred to, was adopted; but Harry Wright's effort to repeal the foul-bound-catch rule failed, owing to Ferguson's objection. The only fair-fouls which can now be struck are those which are the result of the style of hitting known as "blocked balls," viz., balls which the batsman allows simply to hit the bat—not being struck at—and which fall comparatively dead at his feet and on fair ground. Of course this is only available when the catcher is standing at full distance behind the bat, they being useless when he is doing close work there. The new rules make every ball which first strikes the ground back of the home-base and goes into the infield a fair ball, and every ball which first strikes the ground in front of the home-base, but which goes to foul-ground before passing in front of the first or third bases, as foul balls.

The rule which decides a base-runner out who knocks the ball out of the hand of a base-player while in the act of running to a base was struck out; and now a ball must be held by the base-player, or the runner is not out. This will make it a point of play on the part of the base-runner to do all he can to make the base-player fail in holding the ball. Another amendment bears rather unfairly on the base-runner. In case a base-runner be touched by a batted ball while running from base to base, the runner is to be at once decided out. He may have done his best to avoid the ball, and it may be a ball which could not have been fielded in time to put the batsman out; nevertheless, if it touch the unlucky runner he is to be given out.

The selection of umpires occasioned a lively discussion. The proposed plan of employing regular salaried officials for the position did not meet with general favor, owing to the large outlay involved—as great, in fact, as the extra man in the ten-men rule. It was, therefore, thrown aside, and, in place of the rule of last year, the following simple and effective plan was adopted, viz., to select three men in each League-club city who shall be eligible to act as umpires—say, for instance, Daniels, Seward and another in Hartford—and three others in each of the other cities, and one of these three shall be chosen by lot to act in each game in said city. Messrs. Hurlbert and Wright were appointed a committee to select the men, and they will receive all the names sent in by each club, and decide which shall be assigned to each League-club city. The last amendments considered were those referring to a League code for scoring, to which we shall refer in our next issue.

OFFICERS.—After closing the consideration of the rules, the League proceeded to select a Board by drawing from a hat in which were cards with the names of all the clubs. The names came out in the following order: Boston, Louisville, Hartford, Chicago, St. Louis. The members of the Board will probably be Messrs. Porter, Chase, Bulkeley, Hulbert and Fowle. The first-named will, it is expected, succeed Mr. Apollonio in the Boston Club. After the directors had been selected, Mr. Apollonio was nominated by Mr. Hulbert of Chicago, seconded, and heartily approved for president, but declined the honor, saying that it was doubtful whether he would be connected with the Boston Club for another year. Mr. Hulbert of the Chicago Club was then unanimously elected president. Mr. Young was re-elected secretary, with an increased salary, and a highly complimentary resolution passed to his credit. A resolution leaving the publication of the Association code of rules in the hands of the secretary was then adopted.

GATE-MONEY.—Among the most important acts of the session was the adoption of a formal agreement, signed by the clubs, the main features being that each club should use a self-registering apparatus, connected with a turnstile, to indicate exactly how many persons go into each ground for each game. For every person who enters the ground, except players, policemen in uniform, and ten other persons, the visiting club shall receive fifteen cents. In the same agreement is a clause notifying players that they will be charged $30 each for uniforms, and that 50 cents will be deducted from their salaries for each day where they are absent on tours.

After expressing its satisfaction with the treatment received from Cleveland, the League adjourned to the same city, to meet in December, 1877.

BASEBALL NOTES.

Devlin, the pitcher of the Louisville nine of 1876, received a salary of $1,900 for his eight months' service, all of which was duly paid him. He has signed to play with the same club for 1877, and he has been paid an advance on the ensuing year's salary. He asked for his release on the ground of his not having received a further advance exactly at the time appointed. No club-managers in the League have dealt more liberally or honorably with their players than those of the Louisville Club. Those who have availed themselves of the Louisville offers have been Snyder, Ryan, Hague, Gerhardt, Chapman and Devlin. The player who gets $1,000 for the seven months of actual service he is called upon to perform in a club this season is a lucky man. There are now ten applicants for every single position. Manager Chapman recently advertised in THE CLIPPER for some players, and in one week he received fifty-six applications from parties located in every ball-playing section of the country......Captain Ferguson is negotiating with the proprietors of the Capitoline Grounds, Brooklyn, with a view of making that field the headquarters of the reorganized Atlantics for 1877, the proprietor of the Union Grounds having demanded too large a percentage of receipts. Should the new League team—now the Hartfords—be located at the Capitoline Grounds, no League club could play any more on the Union Grounds, the five-mile clause of the League rules still being retained. ....The movement in favor of the organization of the International Professional Baseball Association has received quite an impetus by the action of the League convention. A preliminary meeting of club-delegates in favor of the proposed organization is to be held shortly in Philadelphia. That is the proper place for the convention of all the "outside" professional clubs......George Wright has written to Messrs. Weed & Decker, offering to bring on a skating ten, under his captaincy, to play any New York or Brooklyn ten a match game of baseball on the ice at the Capitoline Lake. Such a contest should draw a large crowd and be an interesting event.......THE CLIPPER ALMANAC for 1877 will contain a full review of the season's play of 1876, together with a statistical record of all the best games played, and the scores of the model contests of each class for the season......Higham has been released from his contract with the Hartford Club. He is now in business in that city, and in a good position......West of the Chelseas has been engaged to play second base for the Bostons. He is a first-class fielder and base-runner, and an intelligent and reliable player.......Nichols of the Mutuals is talked of as short-stop for the Louisvilles...... Terms for playing now range from five to eight hundred for "fair to middling material," and from nine to twelve hundred for "prime stock." The highest salary in the market will not exceed two thousand dollars, even for "fancy goods."......Harry Wright will run the Boston nine of 1877, Ferguson the Hartford, Spalding the Chicago, and Chapman the Louisville. Who will manage the other two is not yet known......Philadelphia is justly incensed at the treatment of their pet club—the Athletics—by the League. There is apparently a poetic justice in the fact that the same punishment meted out to the Philadelphia Club last March should be given the Athletics in December........The Philadelphia Club, under new auspices, is to be reorganized in February next. With a strong regular Philadelphia nine in the field, with no outsiders, they might prove paying rivals to the Athletics. They want two strong nines in Philadelphia, with its thousands of baseball patrons...... The League delegates resolved to charge ladies for admission to their games next season. Hitherto they have been free, and they should be welcome "deadheads" on the ball-field everywhere. ....Now has Hicks Hayhurst a glorious opportunity to do splendid work for the old club. Let him reorganize a regular Athletic team, with Dick McBride as the nucleus......Among the players at present disengaged from League nines are Craver, Treacy and Booth of the Mutuals; Allison, Higham and Mills of the Hartfords; Fisler, Eggler, Meyerle, Coons, Knight, Malone and Zettlein of the Athletics; Fulmer, Carbine, Somerville, Hastings and Allison of the Louisvilles; Addy, Bielaski and Andrus of the Chicagos; Fisher, Pearson, Clack and Sweazy of the Cincinnatis; Pearce and Cuthbert of St. Louis; and McGinley, Burden, Bradley and Whitney of the Bostons......The Indianapolis Baseball Club is about to rent one of the largest rooms in the city, and put up a good gymnasium, with reading-room attachment. The boys will go into training after the holidays, and in March will take a trip to Memphis, New Orleans, Galveston, Houston and Dallas. The Louisville Club may possibly accompany them. Nolan is to be their pitcher. The grounds next season will rank with the finest in the country. A new ladies' stand and club-house will be among the improvements.

THE GAME AMONG THE ORIENTALS.

One of THE CLIPPER's friends who is now sojourning in Japan advises us in the subjoined letter of the doings of baseball devotees in the Mikado's domains:

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, Nov. 14, 1876.

EDITOR CLIPPER.—*Dear Sir:* Thinking that a short account of the progress of baseball in Japan might interest your readers, I send you the scores of a few games played here this Autumn. For some years we have been trying to get up a baseball club, but without success, and it was not until just before the arrival of the United States flagship Tennessee that we were able to excite any interest in the game. However, I am happy to state that, after beating the navy, ball-fever seized on the largest part of the American community, and now we have in Yokohama a club with over forty members, and in Tokio, the capital, they have one with over thirty. Of course the largest part of us, when in command, had not had any practice for a few years; but, although the scores of the matches which I send are all large, I think that we could pick a nine out of the two clubs that would play a good game for amateurs. The first game was played early in the Summer, before either of the clubs was formed, against the Japanese students of the Imperial College at Tokio, and was the poorest of the series, as we were unable to get together a nine of men who were able to play. The Japanese take a great deal of interest in the game, and, as they are very quick and generally good throwers, they will make fair players with some instruction. Below is the score, the game being called at the end of the seventh inning, to allow some of the visitors to catch the train for Yokohama.

FOREIGNERS.	R.	O.	JAPANESE.	R.	O.
Mudgett, 2d b	5	3	Ishido, 1st b	2	2
F. Lacey, s. s	4	2	Nomoto, l. f	2	3
Wilson, l. f	2	5	Hwogama, s. s	2	2
Denison, c	7	1	Kusahorra, c. f	1	4
Churchill, 1st b	6	1	Tarukami, r. f	1	2
O. Lacey, 3d b	4	2	Motayama, 3d b	2	2
Hepburn, p	3	4	Awokie, c	1	2
Stevens, r. f	3	3	Kumi, p	0	1
			Sasaki, 2d b	0	3
Totals	34	21	Totals	11	21

Foreigners	5	1	0	2	7	12	7—34
Japanese	0	1	6	0	0	1	3—11

Umpire, Mr. Van Buren.

The next game was played on the grounds of the Yokohama Club, Sept. 2, between a nine picked from the officers of the U. S. men-of-war Tennessee, Kearsarge and Yantic, against Yokohama and Tokio. The day was a beautiful one, and the game was witnessed by about two hundred Europeans and four or five hundred Japanese. The band of the Tennessee played during the afternoon, and the ladies' pavilion was gayly decorated with flags. Mr. Van Buren was not able to play, but acted as umpire. Below is the score:

YOKO. AND TOKIO.	R.	O.	FLEET.	R.	O.
Mudgett, 2d b	3	3	Reamey, c	4	3
Stevens, l. f	4	4	Hodgson, 1st b	5	3
Elliot, s. s	4	3	Spicer, l. f	4	4
Denison, c	3	4	Jacoby, 2d b	2	5
F. Lacey, c. f	5	3	Augur, 3d b	4	1
Hall, 3d b	5	2	Bolles, c. f	3	2
Hepburn, p	1	3	Morrix, p	2	4
O. Lacey, r. f	3	3	Winslow, s. s	1	3
Churchill, 1st b	1	5	Usher, r. f	1	5
Totals	29	30	Totals	26	30

Yoko. and Tokio	3	0	11	1	0	2	1	3	4—29
Fleet	4	10	1	0	1	0	0	4	5 1—26

Umpire, Mr. Van Buren.

After the formation of the clubs, a series of the best two games out of three was played between Tokio and Yokohama, resulting in favor of the former. The first game was played in Tokio Oct. 14:

YOKOHAMA.	R.	O.	TOKIO.	R.	O.
Van Buren, 3d b	4	0	F. Lacey, s. s	3	3
Hall, s. s	2	3	O. Lacey, 3d b	5	0
Denison, 1st b	4	1	Strange, l. f	3	3
Morse, r. f	1	4	Mudgett, c	6	0
Hepburn, p	1	4	Lagden, 1st b	4	1
Merriman, c	3	2	Stevens, 2d b	2	3
Doyle, c. f	1	3	Davids, c. f	0	4
Churchill, 2d b	2	2	Elliot, p	3	1
Rice, l. f	1	2	Maclay, r. f	1	4
Totals	19	21	Totals	27	19

Yokohama	2	6	3	1	0	5	2—19
Tokio	4	5	11	0	2	1	4—27

Umpire, Mr. Scott.

This game was called to allow some of the men to catch the train for Yokohama.

The second game was played in Yokohama Oct. 21.

YOKOHAMA.	R.	O.	TOKIO.	R.	O.
Van Buren, p	4	1	F. Lacey, s. s	4	2
Hall, s. s	2	3	O. Lacey, 2d b	3	3
Churchill, 2d b	2	1	Maclay, r. f	1	6
Hepburn, 3d b	3	2	Mudgett, c	1	3
Stone, r. f	0	5	Wilson, c. f	2	3
Denison, c	2	1	Elliot, p	3	2
Tripler, l. f	0	4	Davids, 3d b	3	3
Merriman, 1st b	0	5	Lagden, 1st b	3	3
Tiliston, c. f	0	5	Strange, l. f	3	2
Totals	13	27	Totals	23	27

Yokohama	1	0	1	0	5	3	0	2	1—13
Tokio	1	3	3	2	5	0	0	3	6—23

Umpire, Mr. Robinson.

The third game was played Oct. 28 between Yokohama and officers of the U. S. S. Yantic against Tokio, which resulted in the defeat of the latter. Game was called at the end of the eighth inning on account of darkness.

YOKO. AND YANTIC.	R.	O.	TOKIO.	R.	O.
Van Buren, 3d b	6	0	F. Lacey, s. s	2	3
Hepburn, p	2	3	O. Lacey, 2d b	1	2
Gravitt, l. f	2	4	Stevens, c. f	1	4
Denison, 1st b	4	1	Maclay, r. f	1	3
Calhoun, c	3	2	Mudgett, c	2	3
Robinson, c. f	1	2	Elliot, p	2	2
Jacoby, 2d b	1	5	Strange, l. f	1	1
Hall, s. s	2	4	Davids, 3d b	1	3
Churchill, r. f	3	3	Lagden, 1st b	1	3
Totals	24	24	Totals	12	24

Yoko and Yantic	3	11	1	1	2	3	2	1—24
Tokio	1	1	0	0	0	2	7	1—12

Umpire, Mr. Sears.

This was the last game of the season; but it is expected that next year there will be a large number of contests, and perhaps a series may be arranged with the Shanghae Club. Yours truly, AN EXILE IN THE FAR EAST.

THE DEFIANCE CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA.—E. J. Devlin, secretary of this club, who claim to be the amateur champions of the Quaker City, writes as follows in support of such claim: "During the season we played thirty-three games, winning all but five. Among the clubs they defeated are the Quicksteps of Wilmington, Del., Brandywine of West Chester, Pa., Eurekas of Camden, N. J., Liberty of Manayunk, and all clubs in this city, including the professional Athletic, the Kleinz, Campbell, Mutual, Keystone, Archer, Arctic, Excelsior, McClung, Yearsley, Fiss and Reliance. The Philadelphias disbanded before the season was half over, and the Kleinz would not play a return game with us."

BALTIC OF ST. LOUIS.—The directors of the newly-organized Baltic Club of St. Louis, Mo., met at Phœnix Hall Dec. 12, when, a correspondent informs us, six of the nine were selected as follows: H. Wilson, J. H. Mills and S. T. Bodine, fielders; W. W. Burk, short-stop; Mayne of Bloomington, Ill., third base; George Stout, Cincinnati, O., second base. Eugene White of Philadelphia will fill the position of catcher, providing he can secure a release from the Ætnas of that place. Harry Woodall of Iowa will be the pitcher. Malone of the Irvington (N. Y.) Club will play at first base. None of the players are over nineteen years of age. The directors are negotiating for the Lafayette Park Grounds. The club will probably come East in June.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Boston Baseball Association was held last week, when the following officers were elected: President, Chas. H. Porter; treasurer, A. J. Chase; secretary, Harry Wright; directors—Arthur H. Soden and John C. Haynes. Seventy-seven of the one hundred and fifty shares were voted on, including thirty-five of the seventy-two shares held by the Boston B. B. C., an auxiliary of the Association, which had dissolved, voting to transfer said stock to the Association. It was decided to advertise the club stock for sale by public auction.

MEMPHIS (TENN.) REDS.—The following is the list of players engaged by the Memphis Red Stocking Club for the season of 1877. Contracts have been signed, and the club is considered one of the strongest semi-professional organizations that will be in the field next year: J. H. Van Burkalow, p.; Michael Kennedy, c.; Oscar Walker, 1st b.; John Shoup, 2d b.; Andrew Cummings, s. s.; Ben Brookshaw, 3d b; W. H. Moore, l. f.; Tom Loftus, c. f.; Robt. Maloney, change p. and r. f. M. J. Walsh will be the manager.

THERE ARE LETTERS in our care addressed as follows: Mr. Rule of Enterprise B. B. C., Robt. Matthews of Mutual B. B. C. and Mr. Fallon of Chelsea B. B. C.

AQUATIC.

THE CANDIDATES for seats in the Harvard University eight-oar of 1877 are: Legate, Harriman, Lemoyne, '77; Loring, Littaner, '78; Crocker, Smith, Preston, '78: Swartz, Brigham, Conlan, '79. Mr. Dana is attending to them. There are more than twenty applicants for admission to the Freshmen crew who row on three nights each week. A challenge has been sent to the Yale Freshmen, to row at the same time and place as the University crews.

CAPTAIN PAUL BOYNTON recently made an attempt to swim down the River Po, from Turin to Venice, Italy, a task requiring, at the lowest calculation, a week to accomplish; but, after being in the water eighty-six hours, fatigue induced a fever, and he was obliged to relinquish the attempt.

THE PRIZES won at the June regatta of the Brooklyn Yacht Club were presented to the successful competitors on the 13th inst., when the monthly meeting was held. The Greenport regatta prizes of 1875 were also handed to the winners.

CAPT. OSTRAM has received official notification of the declension by Oxford and Cambridge Universities of Cornell's challenge to row an international race on the Thames next year. This announcement will surprise nobody after the occurrences of the past Summer.

ALEX. KRUMBHAAR of the Philadelphia Club, Mr. Brown of the Crescent, and Mr. Megargee of the College have been nominated for the offices of commodore, secretary and treasurer of the Schuylkill Navy.

JAMES WATSON, a member of the fourth estate, and a gentleman well known in boating, athletic, and turf circles, sailed from this port for Liverpool, Eng., in the steamer Nevada, Dec. 12.

JEREMIAH TOOHIG is the cognomen of a newly-fledged Blue Nose sculler, who is spoken of as a contestant for the championship of Halifax Harbor, N. S.

PEDESTRIANISM.

DESPITE THE COLD WEATHER, some five hundred persons were present on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 16, at Twenty-fourth street and Ridge avenue, Philadelphia, to witness the one hundred yards foot-race between F. Rogers of Trenton, N. J., and John Thomas Crossley, the well-known athlete and pedestrian of Philadelphia, for $250 a side. The betting was about even, a good deal of money being invested on the result. Crossley jumped off with the lead, but Rogers put on a tremendous spurt, rapidly reduced his opponent's lead, and at the finish they appeared breast to breast. The referee, however, decided the race in favor of Rogers by a few inches. The time announced for the one hundred yards was "ten seconds."

DANIEL O'LEARY AND W. HOWES are to commence a walking match of 300 miles, for £300, in the neighborhood of Victoria Park, London, Eng., on Tuesday, Dec. 26. O'Leary and Weston have not yet come to terms, seemingly because the latter is averse to a meeting, and accordingly makes unreasonable propositions in lengthy letters to the sporting press.

A FOOT-RACE took place on the Olympic Grounds, at Paterson, N. J., Dec. 9, between Robt. Babcock and Alexander Miner, 150yds., for $100. It was won by the former by 3yds. in 17sec. Another race is announced to take place Dec. 30, distance 14yds., for $200.

MISS VON HILLERN is now pedestrianizing in Boston, Mass., where she, on the 11th inst., commenced the task of walking 350 miles in six consecutive days.

JOHN GRAHAM of Lawrence, Mass., wants to run Tom Landy of Providence, R. I., 100 yards, for from $200 to $500 a side, within fifty miles of the latter city.

LETTERS for Frank Black and E. Mullen are in our care.

THE TURF.

NORFOLK, VA., RACES.

The Fall races over the Campostella Course, Norfolk, Va., commenced on Wednesday, Dec. 13. It was the first meeting that has been held at Norfolk since 1860, the war having interrupted the regular racing carnivals at this place. The people patronized the sport extensively. The track was heavy from the recent rains, and fast time was not expected. The first race was a dash of half a mile for two-year-old colts and fillies, for a purse of $250, $50 to the second horse. Only two started—Lewis & Co.'s Docility and McKelvey's Bosworth, the former winning in 59sec. A mile dash, for all ages, for a purse of $250, $50 to the second horse, had three runners—Callahan's Bay Rum, Lewis & Co.'s Pluto, and Weldon's Flora. Bay won the race in 2:00, Pluto securing second money. The third race was for a purse of $50, for local horses, half-mile heats, which was won by Capt. Jack; time not taken.

On the second day—Thursday, Dec. 14, the attendance was again large, but the track continued heavy and holding. The opening race was a dash of half a mile, for all ages, for a purse of $150, entrance-money to second horse. Lewis' Docility and Burns' King Bee were the only starters, the former winning in 56 seconds. The second race was a dash of one mile for all ages, for a purse of $225, entrance-money to second horse. Four horses started—Burns' Caroline, Callahan's Bay Rum, McKelvey's Bosworth, and Lewis & Co.'s Tampico. This was a capital race, all getting off on even terms, and running abreast for three-quarters of a mile. Entering the homestretch, Caroline and Bay Rum drew clear of the others and raced neck-and-neck until within a few lengths of the judges' stand, when Caroline shot ahead and won an exciting contest by half a length, Bay Rum second. Time, 1:58. The third race was for local horses, dash of a quarter of a mile, for a purse of $25, which was won by Mr. Allen's Gipsy. No time given.

On the third day the track was in a greatly improved condition, and the attendance large. The first race was for the Portsmouth Stakes, for two-year-olds, $25 each, play or pay, with $150 added, $50 to the second horse, dash of five furlongs. The contestants were McKelvey's Bosworth, Weldon's Flora, and Lewis & Co.'s Tampico. It was a closely contested race, the three horses finishing nearly abreast; and it was only after some deliberation that the judges awarded the race to Bosworth, giving Tampico second place and Flora third. The second race was the Morrissett Stakes, $25 each, play or pay, with $200 added for three-year-olds, a dash of five furlongs, for which Lewis & Co.'s Lady Clipper, Weldon's Flora, and Burch's King Bee started. Lady Clipper won, with King Bee second. The last race of the day was a dash of one mile, for all ages, for a purse of $250, which brought out four runners, viz., Burns' Caroline, Boughram's Gerald, Callahan's Bay Rum and Lewis & Co.'s Lady Clipper. This was a capital race, and afforded great satisfaction to the beholders. The horses started off together, and raced abreast for half a mile, when Caroline and Gerald singled themselves out, and, after a splendid struggle, Caroline won by a neck; Gerald second, Bay Rum third, and Lady Clipper fourth. No time was taken.

The attendance on the third day was large, and the condition of the track improved. The sport opened with a race of half-mile heats, best two in three, for a purse of $250, entrance money to the second horse. Five horses came to the post, viz., Gerald, Caroline, Docility, Bosworth and Flora. The first heat was won by Caroline in 54½sec.; Gerald second, Docility third, and Flora and Bosworth both distanced. The second heat was productive of so close a contest between Caroline and Gerald that the judges decided it a dead heat, Docility being only beaten by a head; time, 54½sec. In running off the dead heat, Caroline proved the winner; time, 56sec. The second race was the Navy Stakes, for three-year-old colts and fillies, a dash of three-quarters of a mile, entrance $15 each, play or pay, with $100 added. Four came to the post, viz., Lady Clipper, King Bee, Pluto and Coupon, and they finished in the order named; time, 1:19. Next followed a dash of one mile, for all ages, for the Compensation Purse of $150 for beaten horses, the contestants being King Bee, Gerald, Tampico and Flora. Tampico came in first, but was disqualified for foul riding, and the race given to King Bee, who finished second. Gerald was awarded second money. Flora was third; time, 1:54½. The fourth and last race, over six hurdles, a dash of a mile and a half, was run after sundown, when it was too dark to see the hurdles. Only Pluto and Bay Rum started, the former falling at the third hurdle and throwing his jockey. He continued the race riderless, taking all the jumps. The race, of course, was awarded to Bay Rum, who completed the distance in 2:56. This race terminated the meeting.

POLO AT THE HIPPODROME.

The Hippodrome, in this city, now called Gilmore's Garden, has been restored to its former condition, and the old track for trotting has been put in order for that purpose, while the inner inclosure has been prepared for polo-playing. In the latter game the contests on the opening night of Thursday, Dec. 14, were between four members of the California Polo Club and six of the Boston Club, for a piece of plate offered by James Gordon Bennett, president of the Jerome Park Polo Club. The California players were Nell Mowry (captain), R. J. Carillo, G. N. Morgan and S. Faber; the Boston players, F. A. Fuller (captain), C. Hoyt, Frank Pine, A. C. Colby, J. Phillips and J. Ryan. Harry Blasson acted as umpire. The game was the first of a series of three, to be played on successive nights, the club scoring the most goals in the aggregate to take the prize. The Bostonians had no show with the California players, who were at home in the mysteries and intricacies of the exciting game, and scored six goals in rapid succession, amid the applause of the spectators.

The trotting races then commenced. The first race was for a purse of $100, for horses that had never beaten 2:40, mile heats, best three in five, under saddle; weight and distance barred; $60 to the first, $25 to the second, and $15 to the third. Six out of the seven horses entered came upon the track, viz., Weeks' w. m. Snowflake, Doty's bk. g. Old Bob, Murphy's bk. g. Newbrook, Manee's b. m. Flirtation, Rogers' bk. g. Harry, and Gallagher's b. g. Tom Moore. Newbrook was the favorite over the field. Snowflake won the first heat very easily in 2:51, but, throwing a shoe in the second heat, she was pulled up, and Old Bob won in 2:54. Snowflake's shoe being replaced, she won the third and fourth heats and first money easily in 2:55, 2:54, Old Bob taking second and Newbrook third money. A dash of a mile for running horses, for a purse of $20, followed, the contestants being J. Murphy's b. g. Joe, J. Hinch's b. g. Morgan, and Metcalf's bk. g. Village Blacksmith. It was a capital race, Morgan winning by the shortest of heads from Joe in 2:24. Members of the California Polo Club then exhibited many difficult feats of horsemanship, which afforded great delight to the spectators.

On Friday evening, Dec. 15, polo-playing commenced the proceedings, and in the contest the Boton players exhibited great improvement, but failed to capture their California opponents, who scored ten games to the Bostonians' three.

The trot of the evening was for a purse of $100, for horses that had never beaten 2:45, mile heats, three in five, under saddle. The entries were Manee's b. m. Flirtation, Voorhees & Co.'s b. m. Florence Scannell, Hazlett's b. g. Fitzgerald, Weeks' w. m. Silvertail, and Dr. Heard's b. m. Annie. Silvertail was the favorite, but he failed to secure any portion of the purse, Flirtation winning the second, third and fourth heats in 2:53½, 2:56, 2:47, and Florence Scannell the first heat in 2:54½, Fitzgerald capturing third money.

On Saturday evening, Dec. 16, the first series of the game of polo between the Boston and California Clubs was concluded, eighteen games having been played during the three evenings, of which the California players won fourteen and the Bostonians four. The play of the former was brilliant in the extreme, especially that of Carillo, Mowry and Morgan. The latter won the ninth game by a single stroke, and the former captured the thirteenth by one neat left-handed stroke. After the game the umpire, Mr. Harry Blesson, on behalf of the doner, J. G. Bennett, presented the cup to Capt. Nell Mowry.

The trotting for a purse of $100, for horses that had never beaten 2:35, mile heats, three in five, under saddle, was next introduced. Four horses appeared—Lane's r. g. St. George, Weeks' w. m. Snowflake, Hamilton's bk. g. Harry, and Murphy's bk. g. Newbrook. Snowflake won the first heat in 2:51½, Newbrook second, St. George third, and Harry last. St George won the next three heats and the race in 2:49, 2:55, 2:46½, Snowflake and Harry taking the $25 and $15 respectively for second and third horses. A running race of half-mile heats (four laps to a heat) for a purse of $25, followed, the contestants being Hinch's b. g. Morgan, Metcalf's bk. g. Village Blacksmith, and Golden's g. g. Joe. Village Blacksmith won the first heat in 1:12; but in the second his rider, hugging the inner posts at the turn too closely, struck them, and was thrown, cutting his leg badly. Morgan won the heat in 1:11. The third heat was declared void, as Hinch palpably pulled his horse Morgan to prevent him winning the heat, and for which he was hissed by the audience. The judges then ordered Hinch to dismount, and called for a fresh jockey to ride Morgan. Fisher volunteered, and the result was that Morgan, under his pilotage, won the next heat and race in 1:07; Village Blacksmith second, and Joe third.

THE FALL RACE MEETING of the Camden Jockey Club, Charleston, S. C., commenced on Wednesday, Dec. 13. The opening race was one of half-mile heats for a purse of $100, for which three horses came to the post—Medinger's First Chance, Jones' Rooster, and Wilson's Jack Trigg. First Chance won the race in two straight heats in 51¼sec., 51¼secs, Rooster second in both heats, and Jack Trigg distanced in the first heat. The second race was a sweepstakes of $25, p. p., with $150 added, for two-year-olds, the starters being James' c. f. by Lynchburg, and Burch's c. c. by Prussian. The Lynchburg filly won in 1:50½. The third race was a dash of a mile and a quarter for a purse of $150, for all ages, which brought out Burch's Wateree, Wilson's Tom O'Neil and Barnes Brown's Asteroid. Wateree won in 2:18½, Tom O'Neil a good second.

CHALLENGE FOR A FIFTY-MILE RACE.—The challenge issued recently by Hugh Gaffney and Mart Jordan, and published in THE CLIPPER, offering to match their horse Captain Hammer against Bay Rum for $500 or upwards, two miles, over eight hurdles, not having been accepted, they now address a second defi, this time directed particularly to the well-known long-distance rider John Murphy, who recently defeated the California horseman Capt. Nell Mowry. They offer to ride a fifty-mile-stretch for a purse of $5,000 or upwards, over the Pimlico Race Course, Baltimore, or elsewhere, the rider covering that distance in the shortest time to be the winner.

ANOTHER FOUR-MILE-HEAT RACE.—The Bay District Association of San Francisco, Cal., encouraged by the success which attended the introduction of the stake for mares called the California Oaks, which was run for over its course on Saturday, Dec. 9, now announces its intention of having a four-mile-heat race on Saturday, Dec. 30, for a purse of $5,000, conditional upon there being five entries and three starters. The purse is divided as follows: $2,750 for the first, $1,000 for the second, $750 for the third, and $500 to the fourth horse. The entrees close on Wednesday, Dec. 20.

ACCIDENT ON THE TURF.—By recent advices from Paris, France, we learn that the jockeys Carver, Mills, Kelly, Shepherd and Challoner have been tried before the Paris Tribunal of Correctional Police for wounding by negligence in the accident which occurred at the Paris races on the last Grand Prix day. In the running for the handicap a number of persons were knocked down and trampled upon, three of whom had limbs broken. M. Delamarre, Baron Schickler, Count De Lagrange, and Moreau-Chaslon, owners of the horses ridden by the defendants, were also comprised in the prosecution as civilly responsible. Two versions as to the cause of the accident were given. The persons injured were standing at the point where the new course branches off from the outer one, on the neck of ground which divides the two tracks. According to their statement, some of the jockeys took the wrong road, and on discovering their error rode through the spectators who crowded the intervening space to reach the right track. This the defendants all denied, declaring that the accident was due to the crowd, which was very great on the spot, breaking through and invading the course. A number of witnesses having confirmed this account, including the stewards of the meeting, the Tribunal in consequence dismissed the case without costs.

CANINE CONTEST FOR $2,000.—A match for $1,000 a side between the Brooklyn dog Turk and the Baltimore dog Nipper, came off in this city on Thursday, Dec. 14, which was largely attended by sporting men from Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia. Several thousand dollars changed hands on the result, which was in favor of Turk, who killed his opponent after a fight of four hours. The victor himself died two hours after the fight.

A BIG DOG SHOW is arranged to take place in Chicago, Ill., Feb. 12 to 17 next.

PAT LONG won the champion badge in the shuffleboard tournament played in Philadelphia on the evening of the 15th inst.

THE RING.

CHARITY BENEFIT AT HILL'S.—The entertainment which took place at Harry Hill's Theatre on Thursday afternoon, Dec. 14, in aid of the sufferers by the Brooklyn Theatre fire, was not very well attended, the amount realized being but $75. The show was a good one, embracing variety performances by the troupe there engaged, followed by sets-to between those well-known adepts in the punching business Billy and Warry Edwards, Patsy Hogan and Johnny Saunders, Seddons' Mouse and Jim Kelly, Warry Edwards again and "Scotty's Mouse." The latter, it was understood, had attended expressly to engage in a passage-at-arms with t'other Mouse; but Steve, for some reason, declined, and the light-weight champion's brother donned the mits in his stead. It was a slashing meet, and, although Edwards, who over-weighted his antagonist, got the best of it, Scotty's protege made his mark as a slogger of the first water and a capital receiver of punishment, he "going for hunk" all the time. It excited the spectators more than has any other set-to that has occurred there for a long time, and at the close fight-talk was indulged in, but no business was done. Browning and Ellis, the Devonshire wrestlers, also treated the spectators to one of their bone-cracking struggles, each man working for the mastery as hard as though a big stake depended upon the result. Father Tovee represented Brooklyn on the occasion in his capacity of master of ceremonies.

NED MALLAHAN AND MIKE COBURN have made arrangements to give an exhibition at City Hall, Hudson, N.Y., on Friday evening, Dec. 22. They announce that Joe Coburn, Bill Gould, Johnny Saunders, Jack Riley and one or two more metropolitan boxers will take a trip up there for the purpose of lending a hand on the occasion, together with W. J. Austin and other wrestlers; while Ray Gaul and other local sports will help things along.

JOE COBURN has once more taken upon himself the cares of a boniface, having hung his banner upon the outer walls of No. 1,286 Broadway, opposite "Parker's." The formal opening was fixed for Monday evening, Dec. 18, when the retired champion's friends were expected to rally in force to give him a good send-off.

EPH HOLLAND of Cincinnati, O., who may be said to have gained a national reputation by the part he took in the match between Joe Goss and Tom Allen, is under indictment upon a charge of illegal voting at the late election.

JACK MACDONALD, who seconded the lamented Heenan in his unfortunate battles with Sayers and King, was, at last advices, about to take a benefit in London, Eng.

PATSY HOGAN has made arrangements to revisit the Slope Pacific, and prior to his departure will take a farewell benefit at Harry Hill's Theatre on Thursday afternoon, Dec. 28. Patsy seldom fails to show up at these affairs, and it is no wonder that the fistic luminaries of Gotham have promised to shine for his weal upon this occasion. An extra attraction has been provided, too, in the shape of a wind-up between Hogan and his old antagonist, Pete Croker, this being their first public meeting since they contended for the mastery, minus the gloves, in 1872. Go and see 'em.

JOHNNY DWYER has concluded to try his fortune as a public refreshment-caterer, and having secured an eligible location, at No. 9 Nassau street, near Fulton, in Brooklyn, opened the same after the prevailing fashion on Saturday evening, Dec. 16, when, notwithstanding the bitter cold, the Brooklyn boys were around in considerable numbers.

WE HAVE A LETTER for Steve Taylor.

DEFEAT OF BOGARDUS IN CALIFORNIA.—Capt. A. H. Bogardus, the champion pigeon-shot of the world, recently made a trip to California for the purpose of giving public exhibitions of his skill in the Golden State. While there he was challenged by Mr. A. Crittenden Robinson of San Francisco, who is the recognized champion wing-shot of the Pacific Coast, to shoot a match for $500 a side, on the following conditions: To shoot at 100 birds each, 60 single and 20 double, California Pigeon-shooting Club rules to govern. The challenge was promptly accepted, and the match came off at Oakland Park, San Francisco, on Wednesday, Dec. 13. The California champion proved the victor, killing 53 single birds and 32 double, a total of 85; Bogardus killing 52 single birds and 26 double birds, a total of 78. Only 18 pair of double birds were shot at on account of darkness, but the match was decided at that stage in favor of Robinson.

A TEAM-MATCH was shot by members of the Middlebury (Vt.) Rifle Club Dec. 15, distance 1,000yds. The four headed by Frank Hawley won the oyster supper. Scores poor.

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Send acts to theatre where first appearing.
SPECIAL AND IMPORTANT NOTICE.
Any and all specialty artists booked at the above theatres who shall previously appear at other places in New York, Brooklyn or Williamsburg, WILL FORFEIT THEIR ENGAGEMENTS and be prevented by injunction from appearing in either city. 37-tf

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235 AND 237 BOWERY, NEW YORK
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Artists desiring engagements address HARRY MINER, Proprietor and Manager. 36-tf

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GREAT SUCCESS EVERYWHERE OF FRANK HASSALL, DUTCH, IRISH, AND NEGRO SPECIALTY ARTIST AND COMEDIAN.
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AT LIBERTY AFTER THAT DATE.
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New York, Dec. 18. 39-1t*

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WHAT TROUBLES ME.

WRITTEN FOR THE NEW YORK CLIPPER.

My wife of the public's a favorite pet—
She's in the "variety" line;
My name's not a queer one nor singular, yet
She will never drop hers for mine.
My cognomen is Thompson—you'll note, "with a p"—
And yet, you may think it is queer,
In very large type in the posters you'll see
My wife's—it's "Miss Lulu De Vere."

However, of this I don't wish to complain,
I will not find fault nor repine;
What troubles "yours truly," and causes me pain,
Is they never will call *me* by *mine*;
The deuce of it is I am everywhere known
Not as Thompson—I never *that* hear—
But everyone calls me (I inwardly groan)
The "Husband of Lulu De Vere."

I lounge in the park, drive my handsome black mares,
Promenade or look in at the play?
I notice that everyone looks round and stares—
Do they think I don't know what they say?
When I go for my dinner to Delmonico's,
Or at Sandy's drop in for my beer,
They look at each other and whisper "There goes
The Husband of Lulu De Vere."

At dinners and suppers, at parties and balls,
My wife's a particular belle;
For routs and *for soirees* we've numberless calls—
I like them exceedingly well;
But at all of these places what, think you, am I?
Am I Thompson?—not any, my dear;
If anyone asks who I am, they reply:
"The Husband of Lulu De Vere."

I am sure I have sense; am possessed of some wit,
And am not averse to renown;
I am glad my wife's talent has happily hit
And made us the talk of the town;
But the trouble is this, if the truth I must tell—
For to me its fact's pretty clear—
I'm not much account; I am only—ah, well!
The Husband of Lulu De Vere. J. H. B.

HANDSOME ANDRE;
OR,
THE BATTLE OF LOVE.

WRITTEN FOR THE NEW YORK CLIPPER,
BY EDWIN P. DE NYSE ("PAUL SAUNIER").

CHAPTER XXV.

MLLE. COLOMBINE IN A NEW ROLE.

The next morning, as they had agreed the night before, Robert and Andre occupied themselves in putting into execution the new plan which had suggested itself to Andre so suddenly.

At ten o'clock precisely they knocked at the door of the little house which stood at the corner of what was the Faubourg St. Denis and the Boulevard of Paris at that period. This house, the reader will remember, was the dwelling-place of Mlle. Colombine and her brother Jerome Pointu. It was the latter who opened the door. Andre entered, and introduced the Baron to Jerome, and the three sat in the little parlor and talked on indifferent subjects for a long time.

Jerome told them of his business prospects and success he had met. Thanks to powerful friends and liberal patronage, the little theatre of St. Laurent was still in existence. Nearly four months had glided by since Jerome had before stated his projects to Andre. Consequently, there were only two months more necessary to bring about the realization of his dream of a lifetime. At the end of that brief time he could establish himself grandly in the very same house from which he and his sister had been ignominiously expelled on the death of their father. But Colombine did not make her appearance before the visitors. She must be aware that Andre was there, however. Why, then, did she not come?

Jerome, even, appeared much less cordial and communicative than he was on the day when he met his old playfellow at the theatre. Andre did not know what to think of this. Were this coldness on the part of Jerome and this absence of Colombine caused by the slighting manner in which he had treated the poor girl when she had come to see him when he was in the service of the Duchess? He determined to find out.

"Shall I not see Jeannette this morning?" he asked.

"I can't say," replied Jerome. "She was very busy at her toilet when you came in."

"Go and tell her the Baron of Jouy desires to make her acquaintance, that I have come to render an account to her for my long absence, and that I cannot go away without seeing her. Tell her that, and she will be sure to come."

"I don't know," said Jerome gloomily. He could hardly find an excuse for not going, though, so he left the room, but with much apparent reluctance.

The atmosphere of the little house was becoming decidedly freezing to the visitors.

Jerome returned after a very long absence. His manner was warmer, and he was evidently better disposed towards his guests.

"Jeanette will be here in a moment," said he.

In a moment she entered the room. Andre ran to meet her, and, in spite of her determined effort to repulse him, administered a resounding kiss to each of her plump cheeks, and another, to finish, fairly on her ripe, red lips.

"Now," said he, without giving her a chance to protest, or in fact to say a word, "let us make all our explanations at once; for you have a perfect right to know what has become of me for so long a time as I have been absent. Now, first of all, I desire that you do not make a crime of the embarrassment that affected me when you saw me at the house of the Duchess. I was in peculiar circumstances there. I was the favorite officer of the household, I acknowledge, but all the servants hated me, and five or six of them, you remember, were watching us on that occasion, and listening to all we said. I was much troubled and embarrassed by their conduct, as you must have observed. I do not pretend to excuse myself, for I am convinced now of the stupidity and selfishness of my conduct. And, besides, all I sacrified did not guarantee me good fortune in the house. You remember you left me threatening vengeance. Well, that very night your prophecy was realised."

"I know that well enough," said Colombine viciously.

"What! Was that stroke your direct revenge on me?"

"Yes, monsieur. I am proud, and prompt to act upon my promises. Learning that very day that the Duke had returned to Paris, I sent the Marquis de Villebrune to him at once, charging him to open his eyes to the public scandal which had resulted from the conduct of the Duchess towards you."

"But, my little Jeanette. I will swear ——"

"No matter," said Colombine, interrupting. "You are not at confession here. I don't wish any explanations. The conduct of both you and the Duchess gave me my convictions long ago, and no lover's oaths could remove them. And, besides, if you had sincerely desired to obtain my pardon, you would not have allowed three months to have passed before coming to ask it."

"Why, how could I? Only two days after, I left for Orleans," said Andre.

"What to do?"

"To escort Mlle. De Montpensier."

"What! Were you in that daring expedition of which all Paris is talking?"

"To be sure I was. Don't you see by my uniform that I belong to the house of Orleans?"

"True. I see. Then you have gone campaigning with those three crazy women they call Mlle. De Montpensier, Madame De Frontenac, and the Countess De Fiesque?"

"Yes; and also in the company of my friend the Baron de Jouy, whom I beg leave to introduce."

"Ah! the Baron was with you, too?"

"He never left my side once, day or night, through the whole campaign. During the past three months we have lived together like brothers, sharing our meals, and occupying the same tent in the field, or the same room when we were billeted in the towns."

Colombine made but few other objections, and Andre, with his accustomed eloquence and artful ways and generally engaging manners, soon brought her round to a satisfied frame of mind again.

"We have very often spoken of you," ventured the Baron to the distrustful beauty.

"We only arrived in Paris yesterday," added Andre, "and here, you see, I make the very first visit to you."

"It is very true," put in Jerome, "that Andre couldn't come to see you when he was away off at Orleans with the army."

"So," said the young officer, taking Colombine's reluctant hand, "I hope you will not entertain any more unfriendly feelings towards me."

She faintly returned the pressure of her hand, and Andre covered it with burning kisses.

"It is satisfactory this time," said she, shaking her rosy finger at him, "but take care the next."

"Don't fear for that, my pretty Jeanette. I have loved you too long a time to find any new face to replace yours in my heart. Now, then, let's forget all that is past, and give ourselves up to the pleasure that we should feel on meeting again after so long a separation. As the Baron and I came here, we had a splendid idea come to us, and we put it in execution without asking you."

"What idea was it?"

"It was to order a breakfast for four from the restaurant near by, to be served up here—but for four only, remember."

"I have no objection," said Colombine.

"Then spread your table, my little Jeannette. We'll have the breakfast here in half an hour, and then we'll talk over our affairs."

"What affairs?"

"Those of the Baron, which we haven't spoken a word about yet."

At eleven o'clock a troop of waiters brought in a splendid breakfast, complete in every detail, even to the half-dozen bottles of the most irreproachable wine. Ten minutes after, the company of four seated itself at the table, and did justice to what was provided. On the invitation of Colombine, Robert went into a detailed narrative of his own and Irene's misfortunes.

"What!" she exclaimed, when the recital was finished, "is there no means of tearing the poor lady from the tyrannous dominion of the Count?"

"There should be one means at least," said Andre, "and we will find it in the end, depend upon it. But the most necessary duty now is to inform Mlle. Irene that Robert is not dead this time, any more than he was the first. To do this is almost as difficult as to release the lady from the convent. Unfortunately, neither one of us dares show himself at Val de Grace. I had a notion of getting into the convent under the disguise of a woman; but there is too much at stake to risk my betraying myself."

"Why can't I go?" asked Colombine.

"You might try it," said the Baron, "and I thank you for the offer; but you will readily understand how difficult it would be for even you to command success. It is evident that the moment Mlle. Irene's name is mentioned, the sisters will be on their guard. Although three months have passed, they have not forgotten, I am sure, our attempted abduction of the young lady."

"Very true. It seems impossible to overcome that difficulty."

"It is necessary, then," insinuated Andre adroitly, "for the person who attempts it to be shielded from all suspicion, either by name or position, or by the dress that she wears."

"That means, then, I suppose," said Colombine, "that if I attempt it they will shut the door in my face without mercy."

"Yes, if you do not assume a name and a position and a dress that would gain you consideration at once."

"But what are you talking about? What name? What position? What dress?"

"I was thinking," said Andre timidly, "of a nun's dress."

"That's a bright idea!" cried Columbine, clapping her hands.

"That's what I thought myself," acquiesced Andre. "But the difficulty will be to procure it."

"Not at all. I have a splendid dress of the kind in my wardrobe," said the actress in a fever of delight.

"Have you?"

"Yes, and a very good one too. I wore it only once, in the tragedy of 'Sister Perdita.'"

"But this costume must be exact in every detail. It will not be the public that will be the critic this time, and the dress, as well as the character assumed, will be submitted to the most minute scrutiny."

"The dress is perfect in every detail," replied Colombine. "It was presented to me by the visiting Sisters of the Convent of Meaux, for whom I had occasion to do many favors in a professional way that brought them in much money. I got with the dress all the attachments—beads, trimmings, cap, cloak, everything."

"And you will consent to wear it as a disguise?" asked Robert.

"Yes, if I can be of any service to you, Baron."

"When will you do this?"

"This moment, if you wish it."

"I dare not ask you to run this risk for me."

"You are wrong, then, monsieur, if you do not. And as for the risk I will run, let me retire and put on this costume, that you may judge for yourself how complete it is."

"Hurry, then," said Andre, delighted that his plan was progressing so favorably.

In about twenty minutes Colombine returned entirely transformed. Not only had she dressed herself in the costume, but she had assumed the look and bearing of the character she was to play—her hands clasped the one over the other in the broad sleeves of her dress, her eyes timidly cast down, and her step slow and heavy. The only fault that could be found with her was that she was too pretty.

Her appearance was hailed with an outburst of applause. Robert, Andre and Jerome were unanimously of the opinion that her make-up was faultless.

"Now, then, what am I to say I want to see Mlle. Irene for?" asked Colombine.

"Oh, that is very simple," said Andre. "You must say that you have been sent by the Queen-mother, and that you have a communication to make to Mlle. Irene relative to family interests. If they wish to know what those interests are, nothing prevents your saying Mlle. Irene owns property situated at Meaux, near the convent which your dress shows you represent, and that you have come to ask for instructions in regard to its management."

"Yes, indeed, that is very simple, and quite plausible too," said the actress, in evident delight with the new part that had been assigned her.

"Well, then, let's start off at once," said Andre.

"I am ready," answered Columbine.

Promising Jerome that they would take good care of his sister, the Baron and the Frondeur accompanied her to the street with all dispatch, and directed their steps towards the convent.

On the way the Baron gave the young actress his instructions. It was only necessary to inform Irene of the escape of the Baron from the grave, to assure her that she was still in his thoughts, and that he had not abandoned the hope of rescuing her yet.

At some little distance from the convent the two young men stopped at a street corner, where the angle of a projecting building would mask them from the sight of the sisters, and waited. Colombine continued on her way, and timidly knocked at the porter's door. On the first glance at her dress the Sister on duty promptly invited her to enter the little reception-room. The actress, playing her part splendidly, laid before her the all-important affair of interest that had induced her to undertake the journey from Meaux to speak with Mlle. Irene.

"Very good, my Sister," said the porter, "but I am obliged to refer this matter to the Superior."

"I cannot find any cause of complaint in that," answered Colombine.

They led her before the Superior, to whom she explained anew the object of her visit. It was then that the actress saw the utility of the minute points of information which she had obtained from the nuns of Meaux in order to enable her to play her part on the stage as perfectly as suited her ambition and her devotion to her art.

The Superior questioned her at length, but did not find her at fault in any respect as regarded her Order. So, convinced that she had to do really with one of the Sisters of Meaux, she turned towards the porter and ordered her to "Conduct Sister Anne to Mlle. De Laumirail."

Sister Anne was the young actress of the Theatre St. Laurent. This was the greatest triumph she had ever won in her art, but she did not forget her part in the flush of her success. Like a good actress, she followed with downcast eyes and heavy tread into the gloomy chapel of the convent.

CHAPTER XXVI.

MINES AND COUNTER-MINES.

For four months Irene had been dying by inches in her dismal prison. The sufferings she had endured, the restraint in which she was held by her brother, and the alternation of wild hope and blank despair which she had experienced had reacted disastrously on her mind and body.

First she had thought her lover dead, and for a week had wept bitter tears. These Andre had dried with the news that Robert was alive and loved her still. Then, on the very point of regaining her liberty, fate had decreed otherwise, and her captivity was renewed and made doubly odious to her. Not only had her chains been doubled, but the news had come to her again that the Baron was dead, and the records were even produced to prove to her satisfaction that he had been laid in the grave.

Irene could doubt it no longer. If she up to this time had lent herself willingly to the schemes of the Baron for her escape, it was not because she was of a romantic disposition and loved adventure, nor was it because of a morbid lovesickness that she pined in her convent cell. She knew that her marriage with Robert had been intended by her father, and that her uncle would have carried out his brother's wish had not death come to defeat all his plans; so, in acting in concert with her lover, she felt that she was only carrying out the wishes of her father. But when they placed in her hands the undeniable proofs of the Baron's death, an overwhelming despair took possession of her. Why should she struggle longer against the wicked will of her brother? Where was the use of maintaining any longer her claim to the inheritance of her father? She could not live in the company of the brother she had every cause to hate. Better, then, the cloister, with its solitude and its austerities to shorten her life, and bring her more speedily into communion with him she had loved in life, and whose memory she still treasured so fondly.

From the moment that these convictions forced themselves on her, she was the first to urge that the term of the novitiate should be shortened in her behalf. Perhaps she would obtain even this favor she solicited if the Queen-mother had not been obliged to leave Paris to satisfy the terrible political necessities of the time. When it is remembered that Ann of Austria had bought with her own money the ground and the buildings of Val de Grace, it will be readily understood what influence she exercised over the convent. This authority was so great that the Superior dared do nothing without consulting her. For the same reason, she dared not take any step in so important a matter as that involving the future of Mlle. De Laumirail, in whom her majesty acknowledged herself directly interested.

Irene therefore remained in the novitiate still.

Her wealth of blonde hair, which had formerly hung loose and unrestrained, making a rich mantle of silk and gold about her shoulders, was now imprisoned in a headcloth of snowy whiteness which almost entirely covered her smooth, white forehead. Her finely-arched brows were the same, but her large, dark eyes had been dimmed by tears, and lines of care began to show themselves beside the mouth, erstwhile so rosy and plump, but now so pinched and faded quite. She was wasting away; her rounded form had become angular; and, in the sad robes which the convent-life prescribed her, she presented a shadow of her former self, threading with ghostly secrecy the mystic walks and gloomy arches of the convent.

She had become the model of the institution. Her piety had pushed itself to an excess of fanaticism. She bore every fast, every punishment, every discipline, with strict conformity to the letter of the law, allowing herself none of the little indulgences that the most strict reading of the convent rules would permit. But no one was deceived by this rigorous, self-imposed asceticism. They all knew what was the disease that affected her, and those who watched her guessed truly that she was hastening over a religious road to death, and flying only to the tomb as to a deliverance from a world she loathed. Mlle. De Laumirail was killing herself slowly—was committing suicide in such a manner that no one could interfere and put an obstacle to her design, since she was simply obeying the rigorous rule of the convent. When the Sister who had been sent to conduct Mlle. Colombine to her opened the door of her cell, she scarcely raised her head.

"My dear child," said the Sister, "do not look so downcast. Here is news come to you from your property."

"From my property?" said Irene in great astonishment.

"Yes; here is a Sister from the Convent of Meaux, who has made the journey to Paris expressly to inform you of certain matters of business concerning your estates, and who will talk with you privately."

The young novice was doubtless about to manifest the most unbounded surprise, for she knew no one at Meaux, and possessed no estates there; but Colombine, who was behind the Sister, put her finger on her lips, and gave her a glance full of deep meaning. Irene repressed the words that were fairly on her lips, and substituted others.

"The Sister is welcome," said she. Her features had suddenly undergone a strange transiormation. Who could have invented such a falsehood to gain access to her? Who had enough interest in her to brave the almost insurmountable difficulties and dangers which opposed such an undertaking? And who was it who had taken the trouble to overcome all these, and reach her at last?

"Come forward, Sister Annie. This is Mlle. De Laumirail."

The guide retired.

"Do you wish me to return to guide you out?" asked she as she stood in the doorway.

"I can find the way without troubling you," said Colombine; "I should be very sorry to take you away from your holy duties. Besides, I do not know exactly how long Mlle. De Laumirail may detain me."

The nun departed.

The actress placed her ear to the door, and listened till her steps did away in the distance. Then she returned to Irene.

"Who are you?" asked the young lady suddenly. "Whence do you come? Who has sent you?"

"I will tell you," replied the comedienne in a whisper.

She had already noticed the ravages which misfortune had made in the delicate organism of the poor lady, and she felt what danger there would be in revealing the truth to her too abruptly.

"I am the betrothed of Handsome Andre, mademoiselle," said she, to gratify the general curiosity of the novice, to begin with.

"What! does that poor boy whom I was never even acquainted with still interest himself in my unhappy life?" asked Irene in surprise.

"Yes, mademoiselle. He has not forgotten that you were the intended wife of the Baron de Jouy, his friend. For that friend's sake he cherishes a respectful affection for you."

"Ah! then he sent you here?"

"Yes, mademoiselle."

"But how have you managed to procure the dress you wear, and, above all, how have you succeeded in reaching me?"

"Calm yourself now, mademoiselle, and do not be too much frightened by what I am going to tell you. I am an actress. This costume is a part of my wardrobe, and was a present to me from one of the Sisters of Meaux, from whom I also learned all the customs and rules of her Order. I made a study of these little details some time since, in order that I might play an important part on the stage as closely as possible after nature, and I have availed myself of this knowledge and my talent as an actress to impose on the Superior of this Convent of Val de Grace. That my acting has been a success is proven by the fact that I am here."

"You are welcome," said Irene, warmly pressing her hand, "and I want you to convey to your Andre the deep gratitude I feel for this display of his friendship."

"I shall not fail to do that, mademoiselle."

"But," resumed the novice, "you must permit me to manifest some astonishment if it is only to tell me this little news that you have risked so much."

"Only that? No, indeed, mademoiselle. I have something to say concerning the Baron de Jouy."

"The Baron! Alas! What can you say of him? Is not his grave properly cared for? Does Andre need money to fulfill this duty towards his friend?"

"No, mademoiselle. If that were all, I would have no need to take all this trouble to reach you."

"Then what would you say about the Baron?"

"I would speak of his sudden and mysterious death. Do you know the details, mademoiselle?"

"My brother has told me all; and, if he had not, did I not see Robert fall before my eyes?"

"He regained his consciousness for a moment, did he not?"

"Yes, I know all; for the Count brought the keeper of his lodgings to me and detailed the story of Robert's death before her, and, since she did not deny these details, I know they are true."

"But," said the actress, after going once more to the door and listening attentively, "do you not think this insensibility in which the Baron was up to his death was somewhat strange? Have you never thought of that?"

"I have indeed, very often."

"Have you never heard the name of an illness similar to the condition in which they say Robert died?"

"Oh, yes; they call it catalepsy."

"True, mademoiselle; and if you desired to inform yourself on the subject of this stranze malady, you would be surprised with the record of phenomena it has."

"Indeed."

"You would hear of people who, to every appearance dead, have returned to life after submitting to all the tests that generally prove life extinct."

"Yes, yes; but why do you tell me this?" said Irene, her dark eyes sparkling with feverish interest.

"You would hear, too, if you pressed your inquiries further," continued Colombine, "of wretches who have been buried alive."

"The same terrible thought has more than once passed through my mind," said Irene.

"Andre and I were talking of this to-day, mademoiselle, and that led me to come here to draw your attention to the same sad subject," said the actress, taking the young lady by the arm.

"Great Heavens! Could that have happened to Robert? Was he buried alive?" asked the terrified novice.

"I do not say he was, mademoiselle; but Andre declares and insists that it may have been the case."

"But how did he come to speak to you on this subject?" asked Irene, searching her visitor's face with her burning eyes.

"I do not know how it came about; but he maintained, in the course of our general conversation, that it might very easily have been that the doctor had declared Robert's life extinct when really he was not dead. He even said that it was his opinion that the Baron was not dead."

"What say you?" cried Irene aloud, her heart beating violently and her whole frame convulsed with conflicting emotions.

"He even insists on it," continued Colombine, still holding the novice tightly by the arm, "that Robert might have been laid in his coffin, borne to the cemetery and lowered into his grave, and yet might have awakened at the last moment—might have been rescued from his coffin."

"Am I dreaming?" said Irene wildly. "You have an object in relating these apparently impossible things. You have not come here to torture me, in the depths of my solitude and misery, by awakening in my heart illusions that can never be realized?"

"Andre insists, too," continued Colombine, "that the secret of his resuscitation was kept in order that he might escape the vengeance and continue, with greater chance of success, to plan your rescue."

"Ah! Speak! speak!" cried Irene. "This is torture. Robert lives! He does—he does! Oh, tell me so at once!"

"Yes," whispered Colombine, but in a tone so low that the young girl could only hear it faintly. Irene fell with all her weight into the arms of the actress. Colombine had foreseen the result of the shock such news would prove to the young girl. If she had not been weakened by disappointment and suffering, her joy might, perhaps, have killed her.

"Courage, my sister!" said her visitor. "Come—be calm. Sit down and let us consider this fact bravely."

The novice allowed the actress to lead her docilely to one of the two rough seats with which the cell was furnished, and then crossed her arms and raised her eyes devoutly to heaven.

"Robert lives!" she murmured; and that was all that Colombine could hear of her prayer.

"Yes, he lives," repeated the false nun; "and I am so sure of it that I sat at breakfast with him only an hour since, and he and Andre escorted me almost to the gate of the convent, and he is waiting in the street, not far off, for the answer I have promised to bring him."

"Tell him," said Irene, "that I remain true to the promises I made him."

"I will be sure to do that," said the actress; "but I must also bear him your assurance that you will be patient and resolute to struggle with him against your common enemy."

"Oh, I promise that with all my heart," said the young lady earnestly.

"Alas! I should like to do more than this even," said Colombine.

"What more could you do?" asked the novice.

"My first idea was to change dresses with you, and allow you to escape from the convent by that means."

"True," said Irene, who had not thought of that before.

"I have thought it over," said Colombine, "but there are two potent reasons that forbid it being done now. The first is ——"

"I don't ask you to explain," said Irene.

"But I prefer to do so, however; for, if I do my work by halves, I wish you to know that it is not because I lack the good-will to accomplish all at once."

"Go on, then."

"The first reason is, as I was saying, it is now broad day. Any exchange of this kind could not deceive anyone, owing to the difference in our features."

"Very true."

"The second is more personal, mademoiselle. My brother and I were, on the death of our father, turned out of the house in which we lived, and where we had been left without resources at an age when it was difficult to earn our living. Good luck gave us a position in a company of strolling players, and diligent work, with some talent, has given us honorable positions in our profession. We have treasured up our savings, and watched the little hoard grow with delight as it approaches the grand total that will enable us to hire the old house we were born in, and reopen the little shop in which our father earned his living."

"That is a very noble ambition," said Irene.

"Well, mademoiselle," continued Colombine with an animation that betrayed how deeply this project was rooted in her heart, "we are approaching the end. In two months the sum we need will be in our hands. But, in order to attain this result, things must go on in their ordinary course. Now, if I attempted to put into operation the means of your escape that I mentioned a few moments since, the object I have been working for so long could not be attained. I would be responsible for your escape. I doubt not that they would set me at liberty finally, but after what delays and formalities! What a weary time would elapse! Then I could not finish the work which I have labored so long to accomplish. My work would crumble and vanish like a castle in the air just as I am about to assure it to myself as a reality."

"You are right, mademoiselle," said Irene warmly. "You must devote yourself to this noble task."

"But when I have finished it," said Colombine, "if Heaven has not ended your imprisonment, believe me no one in the world will be more willing to serve you, at any risk or any sacrifice, than the actress Colombine."

"Thanks," said Irene, taking one of Colombine's hands and pressing it warmly in both of hers.

"So, then, mademoiselle, we'll consider it understood. After two months have passed I shall be entirely at your service."

"But what new means do you propose to take to reach me again? They will be sure to inform my brother of your visit to me. Now, he knows better than anyone else that I have no estate in Meaux, and that I am not acquainted with a soul there. He will, consequently, suspect the trick by which you have gained access to me."

"Never mind. We will find some new way. We have not exhausted all our ideas yet. Meantime, resist the enemy, and do not believe anything he tells you, not even if he brings you apparently the most incontestable proofs. Do this, and keep a most cheerful heart, and I will answer for the future."

"You are a good angel," said Irene, who had been much comforted by these hopeful words, "and may the future that you unroll so brightly before me be rich in rewards for you."

With these words she opened the door of her cell.

"Tell him," said she in a whisper, "that I live for him alone."

She accompanied her visitor through the cloister to the reception parlor, and there bade her farewell.

The actress inclined herself piously before the Sister and departed.

TO BE CONTINUED.

COUNTING HIMSELF IN.—A good precedent for the reported action of some of our returning boards is found in the following curious case recently decided in the English law courts: A meeting of the Board of Directors of a certain company was advertised to be held, but at the time appointed only one member was present. He at once proceeded to business, voted himself into the chair, appointed himself secretary, declared a dividend of five shillings per share, and adjourned. The matter came before the Court, and it was argued by the counsel for the solitary member that, as the charter of the company did not specify what number should constitute a quorum, his acts were perfectly legal. The Judge, however, decided that one man would not "meet," and the proceedings were declared invalid.

PRINCE CANDID.

A STORY OF FAIRY-LAND.

King Cadissime was growing very old, and, as all men when they grow aged are only ambitious for rest, King Cadissime came to the conclusion that going to sleep was the greatest fun in the world.

He had always found going to sleep a consolation, for the simple reason that it saved him from thinking.

You must know that thinking was not a pleasant process with the potentate, because his ponderings were extremely monotonous, seeing that he never gave an idea to anyone beyond himself.

Those persons who keep most awake are the individuals who think of others, and so King Cadissime was sleepy.

And as everybody must be industrious in some degree, and as King Cadissime was a body, and as he only thought of himself, his industry was confined chiefly to eating and drinking, in which occupations he for some years showed a fine ability.

So King Cadissime grew torpid, fat, fretful and foolish.

He thought himself a good king because he did no actual harm; and if anybody had told him that he was a bad Prince because he did no actual good, there would have been work for the royal jailers.

Aged before his time, by virtue—or rather by vice—of his own ill-usage of himself, he began therefore to think of rest and of retiring from the fatigue of reigning.

He found it very wearying to hold drawing-rooms, and when he had to rise in order to receive an ambassador he came to the conclusion that the world expected really too much of him.

So he decided that he would abdicate, and he considered that all the land ought to pity him for the heavy labor he had to endure in thinking out who should be his successor.

He had three sons. Prince Ego was the eldest. Prince Mihi was the second. Prince Candid was the youngest of himself and brothers.

Now, if King Cadissime had possessed a grain of the merest common sense, he would have known that he would have secured for himself the happiest state of abdication, by considering which of his three sons was best fitted to rule in that land. The crown in question did not descend to the eldest son, but to the son upon whom the King thought fit to make choice, either upon his abdication or upon making his will.

But King Cadissime decided that he would leave his kingdom and his crown to the son who loved him most. For, with great cleverness, he supposed that the son who loved him most would be the most convenient of the three to succeed him.

For, you see, this King in fairyland—who, by the way, has been imitated by many a real prince of the earth—supposed that the land was made for him—not that he was created and existed for the land and the people.

There was this difference of opinion between him and his people. It is a difference which has not ceased to exist in this deplorable world. Kings *will* fancy their crowns a right, instead of a trust.

So King Cadissime decided that the son who most loved him should succeed him; and to ascertain which of the three was most devoted, he called a council, and commanded every great lord to appear before him.

It was a very busy day at the palace.

There sat the foolish King upon his golden throne, which by this time was scarcely large enough for him, and before him were ranged the three Princes.

The reader will be pleased to learn that the half-imbecile creature has announced his royal intention to abdicate, and that he has used the most pompous language possible; that he has said it is his intention of giving his kingdom to the son who demonstrates that he loves his father best.

The ashen courtiers have announced their sorrow at the King's abdication, they have all expressed great surprise (although they knew what was about to happen, and indeed have talked about nothing else during the past fortnight).

When the King says that he intends to give the crown to the son who most loves him, there is not a man there who protests against the ignorance of such a decision. They all smile and murmur as though a second Daniel had come to judgment.

"Prince Ego," said the King, "thou art my eldest son, and by right of birth thou didst speak first, therefore thou shalt declare first how far thou dost love me."

"Sire," said Prince Ego, "I would lay down my life at your majesty's slightest wish."

The King smiled and looked kindly at his eldest born, who thought, "Surely no man can do more than say he would lay down his life for another. I gain the crown."

"Then, Prince Mihi, what say'st thou? To what extent goes thy love for me?"

"Sire, I should be, indeed, sorry to die for your majesty; for then death would part us, and that would be my deepest desolation. But, at thy slightest wish, I would put out mine eyes in proof to all men of my love and devotion to you, and so, in my darkness, remain a lasting instance of the love your majesty can inspire."

"A royal youth—a right royal youth, and worthy of our love! Now, by the egg-big great diamond in our crown, we know not which loves us best, our first or second son."

The subject courtiers murmured their approval in many low sounds, and showed it, the poor creatures, in scores of weak smiles and nods.

"But what says our third son?" cries the King; "our baby prince—the last-born of my royal race?"

"Sire," said Prince Candid, "I love your majesty as son should love his father."

"What now—what now? Pray, then, is this all you have to say?"

"Sire, in open war, or against treachery or treason my life is at your majesty's disposal; but I would not lay down my life at your majesty's slightest wish, for your Majesty would have no right to require a life at your mere royal caprice."

"Ho, ho!" cries stultified King Cadissime, beating his sceptre upon the arm of his throne; "here is flat treason! What! wouldst thou not lay down thy life for the King who gave it thee?"

"Aye, in a just cause, your highness, but in no other."

"So, so; and, mayhap, thou wouldst not blind thyself to show thy love for us, our son!"

"Sire, what have my eyes done that I should pluck them out? My greatest enemy could do me no greater harm; for living in want of light is more terrible even than the black blank of utter death. In a just cause I would die for your majesty; but nothing should compel me to be blind to please your majesty, for to be blind would be of no avail or use; and I love the light which shows me how very beautiful is all the world."

"Then art thou less worthy than thy noble brothers."

"Prove them, your majesty. Well they know their father would not condemn them—the one to death, the other to loss of sight. But if the maltreatment of my brothers would set an example of devotion to the subjects of your majesty, I see a way in which they could do so, and yet live as happily in this world as they can."

"Let us hear thy plan. We listen."

"My brother Ego says he would die for your majesty. Now let him prove this in part by drawing his sword and chopping off his left hand. The right does almost everything, and the left is almost useless; therefore by losing it Prince Ego will prove his devotion to your majesty after his own manner; and, no doubt, the people will be edified."

The King pondered, and, turning to Prince Ego, he said:

"What say'st thou?"

"Sire, at your majesty's command, and only at your majesty's command, I am ready to chop off my hand; but I pray the King to remember that I should have one hand the less to raise in his royal defense."

"Thou art right royal, my son, and shalt not suffer. And now, thou princekin, last of my house, what sayst thou to the offer of thy brother, Prince Mihi?"

"Sire, let Prince Mihi put out one eye in his father's honor. Twill be sufficient to show his love, and the people will be edified, no doubt."

"Son Mihi, what say'st you?"

"Sire," says the second son, bowing, "at your majesty's command, and only at your majesty's command, will I put out one of my eyes. But my royal father will remember that if I have but one eye, then shall I only have half the vision which I have wherewith to reverence him; while, if I fall blind of the other eye, then shall I never be able to look upon the King again."

"Thou art nobly right, my second son; and thou, traducer, what now hast thou to say for thyself?"

"But this," says Prince Candid: "That I am a man, as is your majesty, and that, as a man, I do respect myself. No vain adoration of your majesty's royal will should make me mutilate myself, or even take away my life—which would, to me, be a less loss than maiming. But when your majesty needs a faithful sword and exceeding courage in the cause of truth, then I pray your majesty rely on me, whatever may be to-day's decision. If it be unjust, I will forgive you, King; and if it be wicked, then I will wish you a better heart."

"What! am I bearded in my own palace?—on my own throne?"

"Sire, you resign both to-day. You should care, therefore, little for the dignity of both."

"My lords," cried the incensed King, "hear our decision! We hold that our elder sons have shown equal love and loyalty to us; and, theretore, we divide our land into two portions, the one being given to our eldest son, the other to our second born; and, as for that most arch traitor Prince Candid, unnatural and infamous Prince that he is, we command him instantly to quit our land, and never to return to our court!"

"Sire," said the youngest son, "I prove my love and duty by obeying. No word will I say; but, laying down my title and my state, I will go forth as a simple knight-errant, seeking to render help to the world."

"Thou art a fool!" cried the King.

"Let me prove to your majesty that I have some sense?"

"We should love to see it; ye shall have your own way."

"So please you," said the Prince, "let a bundle of brushwood be brought into the presence."

"Nay, we have said ye shall be heard; let the bundle be brought."

Now, the courtiers had fallen into a state of consternation when they learnt that the land was to be divided. When the lashed bundle of wood was brought before the King, Prince Candid turned to his brothers and said:

"Take each this bundle and try to break it in half."

The two brothers looked at each other contemptuously.

"Nay, let the clown have his way," cried the King.

So the Princes in turn took up the bundle of wood and strove to divide it.

The wood creaked, crunched, and yielded here and there, but the bundle remained a bundle, even when both the Princes were exhausted.

Then Prince Candid stooped, drew his dagger, and cut the cords. Thereupon, gathering up the sticks, he gave one to each of his brothers and the courtiers, and, in the King's name, bade each strive to break the stick he held.

There was a great cracking, and each one held a shorter stick in each hand.

"Sire," said Prince Candid, "the bundle of wood is your kingdom, now firmly bound; my dagger is your royal will, which breaks up the land; and you see that, union once ceasing, the bundle of wood was soon broken in two. In union only will your land break not up the land, or it will be shattered, and even your majesty be weakened."

"Soh—more treason! Methinks our royal life is threatened. Know, traitor, that thy two brothers' love will make the kingdom one. But take heed. If in fifteen days thou art found still in the land, a hard chain shall be set upon thy heel, and my lowest subject who slays thee shall be held up as a public benefactor."

"Fair father, my love is still your majesty's; and with a heavy heart, I say farewell."

He turned to leave the palace, and, as he moved from the throne, the courtiers whispered that, if he would save the land, and by beading a rebellion, they would stand by him.

"Ye spoke not against their wicked words," he said. "Suffer, therefore, and be punished by their wretched acts. As for the people—alas! the innocent ever suffer for the wicked. Were ye worthy of a good king, ye would have him. The world makes itself."

"Your majesty," he cried, turning on the threshold, "there is treason already in the palace, and with my presence goes your majesty's most loyal and most pitying subject!"

So the Prince went out into the world alone, poor in riches, but very rich in hope.

He wandered through many lands.

One day, passing through a wood, he encountered an old woman singing and spinning flax after the Italian manner.

"Good-day, mother," he said.

"Good-day, my son."

"Thou art happy?"

"Aye, for I work, and am contented."

"Have you no wish ungratified?"

"No; for my sons are strong and happy, and my daughters have little children."

"Have you no sorrow?"

"For myself, no; for the land, yes."

"What ails the land?"

"It is ruled by a princess who will not marry."

"Perchance she loves her people?"

"Yes; but she will not marry, because most men are wicked."

"A good reason."

"But she has five cousins, all of whom covet the land. If, now, she had a wise husband, the cousins would be conquered, whereas they may seek to poison her or imprison her, and then what would become of the kingdom?"

"But do not her courtiers tell her these things?"

"Yes; but she knows them to be vain and bad, and, therefore, she mistrusts them. If, now, an honest man pointed out to her how wise it would be to marry, then she might listen."

"What is her name?"

"Violetta, and well she deserves it; for, like the flower whence she obtains her name, she is modest and retiring, and loves to give the perfume of her goodness to those who pass by without being seen or thought about."

"I will go to her," said Prince Candid, "and speak my mind."

"But how shall you reach the throne?"

"I will tell the courtiers what I wish to do."

"They would beat thee, for they hold that they should monopolize advice given to the throne. Nay, you must reach it by royal chair by way of frivolity."

"How shall that be?"

"I will tell thee, son. I have a talking dog, who is wiser than most men, because he has tried to learn, and has kept himself humble."

"A wise dog!" said the Prince.

"Keeny, Keeny!" said the old woman.

A very sensible-looking dog walked out of the hut and made a civil bow.

"This gentleman wants a companion," said the old lady, still spinning.

"I shall be most happy to be of service," said the canine animal.

"I thank you," said the Prince. "I see we shall be great friends."

"Shall be?" said the animal. "We are. By the way, my absolute name is Darwinetto, but I am called Keeny for short. Do you not think we may as well start?" The sooner the Princess is brought to a state of common sense, the better."

"By all means," said Candid, determined not to be outwitted in promptitude even by a very clever dog.

"Madame," said the Prince, "I will wish you good-day. I have no doubt Keeny will find his way home when he wishes."

"Quite, quite," said the creature, with a sort of bark.

"By the way, madame, I do not know your name."

"My family name is Fors," said the spinner. "I am called Clotho, and I am the eldest. I spin. My second sister is called Lachesis, and she measures the threads I spin. Our younger sister is called Atropos, and she cuts the thread—shall we say the thread of life?—which I spin, and which Lachesis measures upon the rods in his throne; here is flat treason! What! wouldst thou not lay down thy life for the King who

ANNIE AND WILLIE'S PRAYER.

BY SOPHIA P. SNOW.

'Twas the eve before Christmas. "Good-night" had been said,
And Annie and Willie had crept into bed;
There were tears on their pillows, and tears in their eyes,
And each little bosom was heaving with sighs.
For to-night their stern father's command had been given
That they should retire precisely at seven—
Instead of eight—for they troubled him more
With questions unheard of than ever before.
He told them he thought this delusion a sin—
No such person as "Santa Claus" ever had been—
And he hoped, after this, he should nevermore hear
How he scrambled down chimneys with presents each year.
And this was the reason that two little heads
So restlessly tossed on their soft, downy beds.
Eight, nine, and the clock on the steeple tolled ten;
Not a word had been spoken by either till then,
When Willie's sad face from the blanket did peep
As he whispered: "Dear Annie, is 'ou fas' aseep?"
"Why, no, brother Willie," a sweet voice replies;
"I've long tried in vain, but I can't shut my eyes,
For somehow it makes me so sorry because
Dear papa has said there is no 'Santa Claus.'
Now, we know there is, and it can't be denied,
For he came every year before mamma died;
But, then, I've been thinking that she used to pray,
And God would hear everything mamma would say,
And maybe she asked him to send Santa Claus here
With the sack full of presents he brought every year."
"Well, why tan't we pay dest as mamma did den,
And ask Dod to send him with presents aden?"
"I've been thinking so too," and without a word more
Four little bare feet bounded out on the floor,
And four little knees the soft carpet pressed,
And two tiny hands were clasped close to each breast.
"Now, Willie, you know we must firmly believe
That the presents we ask for we're sure to receive;
You must wait just as still till I say the 'Amen,'
And by that you will know that your turn has come then.
Dear Jesus, look down on my brother and me,
And grant us the favor we are asking of Thee.
I want a wax dolly, a tea-set and ring,
And an ebony work-box that shuts with a spring.
Bless papa, dear Jesus, and cause him to see
That Santa Claus loves us much as does he:
Don't let him get fretful and angry again
At dear Brother Willie and Annie. Amen."
"Please, Desus, et Santa Taus tum down to-night,
And bing us some pesents before it is light;
I want he should div me a nice little sed,
With bright shinin unners, and all painted red;
A box full of tandy, a book and a toy.
Amen, and den, Desus, I'll be a dood boy."
Their prayers being ended, they raised up their heads,
And, with hearts light and cheerful, again sought their beds.
They were soon lost in slumbers, both peaceful and deep,
And with fairies in dreamland were roaming in sleep.
Eight, nine, and the little French clock had struck ten,
Ere the father had thought of his children again:
He seems now to hear Annie's half suppressed sighs,
And to see the big tears stand in Willie's blue eyes.
"I was harsh with my darlings," he mentally said,
"And should not have sent them so early to bed;
But then I was troubled; my feelings found vent,
For bank-stock to-day has gone down ten per cent.;
But of course they've forgotten their troubles ere this,
And that I denied them the thrice-asked-for kiss;
And, just to make sure, I'll steal up to the door,
For I never spoke harsh to my darlings before."
So saying, he softly ascended the stairs,
And arrived at the door to hear both of their prayers;
His Annie's "Bless papa" drew forth the big tears,
And Willie's grave promise fell sweet on his ears.
"Strange—strange—I'd forgotten," said he with a sigh,
"How I longed when a child to have Christmas draw nigh.
I'll atone for my harshness," he inwardly said,
"By answering their prayers ere I sleep in my bed."
Then turned to the stairs and softly went down,
Threw off velvet slippers and silk dressing-gown,
Donned hat, coat and boots, and was out in the street—
A millionaire facing the cold, driving sleet!
Nor stopped he until he had bought everything,
From the box full of candy to the tiny gold ring;
Indeed, he kept adding so much to his store
That the various presents outnumbered a score;
Then homeward he turned, when his holiday load,
With Aunt Mary's help, in the nurs'ry was stowed.
Miss Dolly was seated beneath a pine tree
By the side of a table spread out for her tea;
A work-box well filled in the centre was laid,
And on it the ring for which Annie had prayed;
A soldier in uniform stood by a sled,
"With bright, shining runners, and all painted red."
There were balls, dogs and horses, books pleasing to see,
And birds of all colors were perched in the tree;
While Santa Claus, laughing, stood up in the top,
As if getting ready more presents to drop.
And, as the fond father the picture surveyed,
He thought for his trouble he had amply been paid;
And he said to himself as he brushed off a tear:
"I'm happier to-night than I've been for a year.
I've enjoyed more true pleasure than ever before—
What care I if bank-stock falls ten per cent. more?
Hereafter I'll make it a rule, I believe,
To have Santa Claus visit us each Christmas-eve."
So thinking, he gently extinguished the light,
And, tripping down-stairs, he retired for the night.
As soon as the beams of the bright morning sun
Put the darkness to flight, and the stars one by one,
Four little blue eyes out of sleep opened wide,
And, at the same moment, the presents espied;
Then out of their beds they sprang with a bound,
And the very gifts prayed for were all of them found.
They laughed and they cried, in their innocent glee,
And shouted for papa to come quick and see
What presents old Santa Claus brought in the night,
(Just the things that they wanted), and left before light;
"And now," added Annie in voice soft and low,
"You'll believe there's a 'Santa Claus,' papa, I know;"
While dear little Willie climbed up on his knee,
Determined no secret between them should be,
And told in soft whispers how Annie had said
That their dear, blessed mamma, so long ago dead,
Used to kneel down and pray by the side of her chair,
And that God up in heaven had answered her prayer.
"Den we dot up and prayed dust as well as we tood,
And Dod answered our prayers: now, wasn't he dood?"
"I should say that He was if He sent you all these,
And knew just what presents my children would please.
(Well, well, let him think so, the dear little elf;
'Twould be cruel to tell him I did it myself".)
Blind father! Who caused your stern heart to relent,
And the hasty words spoken so soon to repent?
'Twas the Being who made you steal softly upstairs,
And made you his agent to answer their prayers.

THE CAREER OF A COLUMBINE.

WRITTEN FOR THE NEW YORK CLIPPER,
BY JAMES WIGHT.

Although the drama of our immediate ancestors was deficient in those adventitious aids which it takes such constant care and attention on the modern manager's part to secure, it may safely be said to have occupied a large space in social life, and to have had more influence on the public mind than what a critic correctly terms "the huge histrionic organizations of our time." The stage was then as much a part of the auditorium as any other portion of the theatre. Indeed, *le beau monde* preferred the seats in the wings, and those on the stage itself, behind the actors and in full view of the public, to any others. Thus, when a certain famous actor was playing Hamlet for his own benefit at Drury-lane, the stage was much encumbered with fine folks; and an inoffensive but officious old lady, with a superfluous red cloak on her arm, hearing the "melancholy Dane" say "the air bites shrewdly, it is very cold," quietly rose from her seat, took off her cloak, and placed it around his shoulders, to the infinite amusement of the audience, while the actor himself was convulsed with laughter. Sometimes, however, these incidents took a more objectionable form, and were less amusing, as the following narrative will prove.

Manchester, England, displayed more than a hundred small bills—the baldest apologies for the mural magnificence of billposting at the present day—announcing the dazzling, gorgeous and unprecedented production at the Theatre Royal of the pantomime "Whittington and his Cat." On "boxing-night" the various entrances of the dingy lamp-lighted house were bombarded by an avalanche of human beings anxious to gain admittance, for the fame of the company had been heralded with an enterprise and an expense which were unusual in that day. The Clown and Pantaloon were of surpassing comicality and agility; the ballet numbered nearly twenty houris; and the Columbine—well, she was a coruscating vision of loveliness. The rear of the stage was occupied by the grandees of the district, who had traveled to Manchester, accompanied by their retinues, to be present on the first performance. The Grosvenors and the Stanleys sat upon velvet chairs, while occupying the post of honor was Borlase De Dunstanville, last Earl of Clermont—an exceptional Sybarite, rake-hell, *bon-vivant* and *palliard* even in those debauched times.

The rhymed nonsense and local and political hits were received with spontaneous good-humor. Everything was applauded, from the scene-painter's efforts down to the new chandelier, filled with oil-lamps—which was a new revelation of splendor in illumination in those murky days. When Harlequin, however, by a stroke of his enchanted sword, ended the poetical palaver, and Columbine came bounding on the stage, there was a moment of suspense, during which the proverbial pin might have been heard to fall. She literally took away the breath of that large audience. She flashed upon the vision like a Venus bursting from enamored waves. She seemed all that painting can express or the poetic imagination fancy. Nature, when she built this pulse-maddening beauty, had been in earnest, and the result was a faultless form and every winning grace that young Love demands.

"Jupiter and Helen of Troy!" cried Borlase De Dunstanville impulsively, and in tones heard in the remotest corner of the house.

The thunders of applause that followed this vulgar but evidently honest homage shook the walls of the building and threatened to precipitate the "gods" and the gallery upon the heads of the people in the pit.

The favored young bloods, and, for that matter, the shrunk-shanked, silver-haired old Lotharios as well, were unanimous in declaring that the delightful, dark-eyed, dark-haired Columbine was calculated to shake the saintship of an anchorite, while the noble swell of the limbs and other grand corporeal traits fired the heart of the somewhat faded De Dunstanville and gave it a new sensation—unknown before.

The town went raving over Kate Pemberton, the lovely Columbine, and she was dragged to her humble lodgings by her admirers—a tumultuous, surging crowd—in a coach provided by the scion of the aristocratic house of Derby. The house was packed every night. Critics crammed themselves with metaphor, and went into paroxysmal panegyric in a fashion like the following:

"Face, frame and limbs are all supereminently eloquent, and tell tales of passion beyond the power of mere airy words. Her dancing is the language of the exhilarated heart when it seeks to communicate, to cherish and to expand its joy. Nothing has ever been seen on a stage before at all comparable to this dangerous yet unwicked witch, the charming and spell-bearing enchantress Miss Kate Pemberton!"

Ah, there were critics in those days! The race of soul-floralizing dramatic hosannaists existed ere those blighted and sapless latter-day ink-slingers out on the Western prairies endeavored to revive the ancient art. But this is a sort of acrobatic digression.

Borlase De Dunstanville, Earl of Clermont, did not proceed that night to his country-seat. His imagination was fired; he had experienced a new sensation, and he spent a restless night in the bridal-chamber of the King's Hotel. His dreams resembled those of an Oriental hasheesh-eater. Gleaming eyes, white, rounded arms, gorgeous bosoms, and glancing, twirling, maddening, marbleized limbs were revolving in saltatorial mazes, amid amaranthine bowers, through the nobleman's brain.

Next evening the Earl was introduced to the lovely Columbine by the manager, albeit his lordship was evidently under the influence of wine. She was but twenty, retiring and decorous, and, during her very limited stage experience, it was the first time she had encountered a privileged voluptuary, or had listened to a prurient compliment. The girl was flattered, yet fearful. Her eye sparkled and her heart jumped when her distinguished admirer presented her with a valuable ring; but she shrank cowering from the offense of his touch when he sought to caress her ivory shoulders with his shrunken hand. There was no escaping from her aristocratic tormenter during the pantomime. He danced attendance at the wings, and the manager was evidently gratified to discover that his "noble and generous patron" was so effectually captivated—or, as we say in these sophisticated days, mashed.

Kate was standing on the O. P. side, waiting her signal, and listening for the twentieth time to her infatuated admirer declare she was an angel, a Venus, and so forth, when some words of a conversation from the distinguished group of spectators who occupied seats at the back of the stage reached them.

"Ah, yaas, wather pwetty. Wondaw where old Woxby picked her up?"

Roxby was the manager. The speaker was an exquisite of the first water, and his companion was a rather too full-blown blonde of the fat-and-forty type.

"I tell you, sir, she is decidedly pretty. Her face is very superior for a person of plebeian origin. Her arms are rather too much like a milkmaid's, but they are well formed. Her bust is fair, waist ditto, and her legs ——"

"Well, what about her legs?" said her companion with some impatience.

"They are padded, certainly."

"Ah, I thought so."

"Do you hear that charge, my beautiful Kate?" whispered his lordship.

"It is false!" said Columbine with a piquant emphasis.

Instantly the faded Don Juan had captured a glowing silk-covered limb and was submitting it to frenzied manipulation. Incited by an uncontrollable impulse, he determined to solve the problem of cotton, or no cotton, at once. The result was disastrous. Columbine gave a shrill scream, and bounded away from the coarse contact like a startled fawn. The sudden momentum precipitated her headforemost upon the stage, in full view of the spectators, where also the ancient intrigant was prostrated at his full length. The confusion was indescribable. Hissing, yelling, cursing, stamping, cries of "Put him out!" "Lynch him!" "Throw him into the pit!" and other maledictions, mingled with the loud inquiries of the stage people and the vociferated entreaties to "Keep quiet" of the adipose manager. To add to the tumult, the Harlequin—a muscular young man and an intense admirer of Miss Pemberton—shot out his dexter mauley and drew the claret from the Grecian prominence of the nobleman's phiz; seeing which, some boisterous bloods in the pit jumped into the orchestra, upsetting the leader's stool and demoralizing the double-bass. As usual, certain timid people rushed into the street, crying "Fire!" "Murder!" and "Constable!" and, just as the curtain was descending, three or four of the watchmen of the period walked leisurely upon the scene.

CHRISTMAS MORNING IN THE FAMILY CIRCLE.

Our illustration is intended to convey a very faint impression of the happiness of the little home circle on Christmas morning. The fond and devoted mother, having spent the greater part of the night before Christmas in paving the way for the enjoyment of the little ones, has just fallen into a gentle slumber, when she is startled by the most fearful din, the juveniles having resolved themselves into a Gilmore's orchestra, and all that that implies. Aunt Celia escapes the din by going out for a walk, leaving the maternal parent in a paroxysm of terror.

"I am the Earl of Clermont. Take that varlet into custody," was the unexpected and imperative greeting the boorish preservers of the peace received.

Everybody was silent. The constables arrested Harlequin without remonstrance on his part or the managers. The disreputable nobleman was master of the situation, and by his orders the theatre was closed for the night. There was no indignant newspaper to scorch the aristocratic puppet next morning; but the poor Harlequin got six months' imprisonment with hard labor, and Manager Roxby was compelled to grovel at his lordship's knees in order to retain the poor privilege of having his license continued. "Dick Whittington and his Cat" enjoyed the usual run, but the regular habitues spoke disparagingly of the new Columbine, and declared that the new Harlequin was a mere wooden man compared with his agile predecessor.

The whirligig of Time brought his usual revenges and compensations. May merged into midsummer. The company of the Theatre Royal, Manchester, was scattered all over the British islands, and one had even gone to Paris. Yes; Miss Kate Pemberton, the lovely Columbine of two nights, after six months' assiduous supplication had consented to render Borlase De Dunstable—that peer of the sere and yellow leaf—happy. She was now the Countess of Clermont—somewhat of a termagant, with a temper like touchwood.

If you ask how a "used-up," Sir-Charles-Coldstream sort of a man like the Earl could have married a pretty girl of mere *sans culotte* origin, the answer is that this black-eyed dancer was not only more attractive, but more skillful than the renowned Dulcinea del Toboso. Men of the temperament of De Dunstanville are not the most difficult to capture. He had pictured her unsophisticated, beautiful, pure. He had found her honor impregnable; and he had no conception that poverty, privation and the inevitable indecency engendered by a large family eating, living and sleeping in one room had taught the girl more than a young man would like the girl of his bosom to know.

The last of the De Dunstanvilles was hard to awaken from the delusion that his bird of Paradise was but a bird of prey in borrowed plumage. But the plumage she insisted on. It was a repetition of the old adage concerning the beggar on horseback. This girl from the Manchester slums, who had learned French from her mother, soon rivaled the most notorious and profligate society-woman in that licentious period—the last years of the reign of Louis the Sixteenth. Spite of the Earl's remonstrances, she surrounded herself with admirers. She smiled on every pair of whiskers that approached her, and went into ecstacies over forty boxes of bonbons, all of which came from the same shop. Her elderly, uxorious husband slept upon a bed of perennial thorns. Yet the ridicule and abuse which in England had followed his "insane *messalliance*," kept him on the Continent, and his Countess preferred, on that account, the spot which is designated Paris.

The Earl and Countess of Clermont lived in great style. The porter was seven feet high—a blonde Norwegian strong and muscular as Hercules or Goliah of Gath. The footman was a lithe and supple Englishman, with a provincial accent and little or no acquaintance with the French tongue. We have met him before—in the Theatre Royal, Manchester. He was the Harlequin who had resented the insult of his present employer to the Columbine of the pantomime. My lady, of course, was acquainted with the coincidence of identity; my lord, on the other hand, was in Cimmerian darkness. The porter was named Cedric Wolfe; the footman, Joseph Jennings. Cedric hated Joseph with a hate invincible, yet, to all outward appearance, my lady smiled with an equal condescension upon both of them.

It was the beginning of August, 1792. The seeds of revolution were rapidly approaching fruition in France. The last of the De Dunstables was unwilling to imperil his precious life amid the prospective outrages of a Parisian mob. Therefore, he insisted on leaving the gay but threatening capital. To this step his Countess was most decidedly opposed. Their tete-a-tetes on the subject were extremely acrimonious. Sheridan has pictured such a scene between Sir Peter and Lady Teazle. But my Lady Clermont far outstripped Lady Teazle in the accomplishment of vixenish innuendo. One morning both husband and wife had lost their temper. He suggested that she would have better become a fish-stall in Billingsgate than the coronet of a Countess. Her retort discourteous was to the effect that he was a fool, and a something—contemptibly human—with horns. She was enveloped in a wadded morning wrapper of white satin, although the weather was warm, and in this costume she resembled a jewel in its casket, or a cat on an eider coverlet. She looked superb in her rage and scorn; and when the faded *roue*, palsied with anger, hinted that he alone controlled the purse-strings, and that, if she chose to go to the Devil, she would go there a pauper, she grew magnificent as a Borgia in her fury.

They separated from that last interview with frigid politeness; and her ladyship sank upon a fauteuil and shed the first real tears since the morning of her magnificent alliance, when the image of a certain Harlequin rose up before her, even in the church at the altar.

That day the popular fury culminated. The palace of the Tuilleries was attacked by an armed mob, the Swiss guards were overwhelmed, and the King and Queen committed close prisoners to the Temple. The Earl of Clermont quietly left Paris in a coach. During the days that followed, riot and massacre ran rampant in the devoted capital. Atrocities were committed in the name of Liberty at which humanity turns pale. The prevailing thirst for blood had even invaded the Clermont mansion. Cedric the Norman had cleft in twain with an axe the head of the pampered footman Joseph Jennings. The Countess, deserted by her former admirers, was at the mercy of this brutal and gigantic porter. Seated in her chamber, with her head buried in her hands and her long masses of dark hair sweeping like a mantle to her feet, she was disconsolate—and even more terrified than disconsolate. The huge Northern savage was terrible in the mystery of his proceedings. He had not intruded himself upon her privacy since he had butchered the footman. What did he mean? What new crime did he meditate? So pondered the mistress.

As for Cedric, since his pent-up rage had been quenched in bloodshed, he had moped around in a soft, half-sorrowful manner. He was ashamed of himself, especially when the image of his kind mistress rose before him in all the pride of her luxuriant beauty. He felt that he could not endure her look of reproach. He would rather take part among the fiend-inspired populace than remain where he was. But, to leave his mistress—that would be cowardice. Such thoughts, in such an untutored heart, and in such a time, quicken with fearful rapidity. He must either flee from her or see her. Had the mob not butchered the Princess Lamballe? Why should not he perpetrate a lesser offense, and love his mistress? He had often admired the regularity of her features—had scanned, in his own fashion, with unqualified approval, the lines of her splendid figure and the symmetry of her firm, well-turned limbs. Nay, had not the lady herself furnished opportunities for the gigantic barbarian to admire her glowing physical beauties? Pondering over these stimulating considerations, a passionate impulse fired his heart. He resolved to see her once more—it might be for the last time.

In another minute Cedric stood before her. Admiration, unsoftened by respect and untempered by affection, glowed from his steel-blue eyes. She was perfectly composed—nay, as reckless and desperate as the Antinus before her. There was nothing, she felt, she could not dare. Nerve and brain were wound up to the highest pitch of excitement—heart and feelings crushed and wounded.

Such was the frame of mind in which Kate, Countess of Clermont, received the giant porter. Her color did not even deepen, nor her breath come quicker, at his unexpected appearance. Any change was preferable to the stagnation of the few past days. How could she but listen when he sank upon his knees at her feet? He soothed her self-love; he aroused her curiosity; he propped up her pride, he was an anodyne to her pain.

Thus the two thunder-clouds drew nearer still, and nearer ere they met to be riven by the thunderbolt their own contact had occasioned. She gloried in her shame and in her colossal lover; and, while the bloodthirsty mob was forcing open the prisons and murdering the royalists, Kate and her blonde Cyclops appeared in the streets aiding and abetting the outrages. The excitement of the scenes furnished a Lethe to her wounded and remorseful heart. Her giant was mingling in congenial operations, and it is the genius of woman to be able to descend as low—even to unsexing herself—as the idol of her heart. The splendid residence was turned into a scene of licentious orgies. The Goddess of Reason was enthroned in the Clermont dining-hall. Shameless women, maddened with wine, bare-limbed and with disheveled locks, celebrated the worship of the new deity. Among the wildest of these voluptuous revelers was Kate herself, and, albeit Cedric often cast upon her savage looks of reproof, she unrestrainedly exhibited a fierce determination to set decency at defiance. With the savage suspicion that a tiger watches his banquet, Cedric watched his mistress; for his own experience of her frailty had taught him to suspect her. Nay, was there not also Joseph Jennings, whose cloven skull sometimes visited the besotted pillow of the Norwegian Goth? It needed but a spark to set the dry tinder of his jealousy aflame. And the spark was not withheld.

In a moment of frenzied excitement, Kate personified a Columbine before the elevated throne of the Goddess of Reason. A Leotard of those days named Santob speedily extemporized the part of Harlequin. The performance of the pair out-Heroded Herod. It was saltatorial and statuesque salaceousness. Amid the maddening cheers of the excited audience, Cedric retired; and when Kate was poised in her fellow-performer's arms, with feet in the air and bosom glowing, there was a meeting of lips—a meeting that arose from an impulse which, on the part of M. Santob, must have been uncontrollable. A roar as of a wild beast startled the assemblage. A shadow as of a swift and mighty wing cleft the air, and the broad, thirsty edge of an axe shot through Columbine's golden corslet and drank the life-blood of her beating heart. Another blow severed the head from the neck of the Harlequin, and the orgy closed, as was fitting, in blood, debauchery and tears. Thus, in magnificent vice, died a woman whose chequered career is calculated to be a warning rather than an emulation in the ranks of her profession.

EUROPEAN DRAMATIC AND OPERATIC NOVELTIES.

"LE PRINCE,"

a new four-act comedy by MM. Meilhac and Halevy, was recently first performed at the Palais Royal Theatre, Paris, France. A correspondent thus describes the plot: M. Cardinet is a middle-aged citizen of the quiet town of St. Malo, who has grown thoroughly bored by the monotony of his existence. He is weary of eating eternally, day after day, the same dishes, always at the same hour, and the regularity of his household management has become oppressive to him. His wife, though young and pretty, is a confirmed prude. She patronizes all charitable institutions, sets her face against pleasure or amusement in no matter what form, and allows her suffering husband no recreation beyond a stroll on the beach each week-day afternoon, and a cigar at the military band on Sundays. Cardinet, however, is determined to amuse himself, and just at that moment a party of actors from Paris have come to give a performance in the town. Among these is the famous Escoloubine, an artist who, as he proclaims himself, "possesses only one virtue, but that is of the simplest, namely, that he is superior in everything to everybody else." Mlle. Simonne, the star actress of the troupe, and the great Escoloubine come to Cardinet's house in order to dispose of a box, and the provincial's soft heart is at once put in a flame by the bright eyes of the lady. He engages the box, when suddenly his better-half appears. Madame Cardinet, it need hardly be said, does not approve of the theatre, and holds actors, and especially actresses, in horror. She makes observations to her ground-down husband which—coupled with the effect produced by Simonne's eyes—prove the last straw on the back of that poor man's patience, and he rushes out of the house, determined to have at least one evening's enjoyment. In the second act matters grow even worse for the domestic felicity of the Cardinets. The starch-necked lady is at her window, watching with melancholy resignation the pastrycooks bringing all sorts of choice viands to the Cafe de la Comedie, where the young swells of St. Malo are entertaining the actors at supper. And her husband is among those jovial spirits, and is even the poet of the company, for he has written most execrable verses in honor of Simonne's charms. Madame Cardinet grows at last so furious that she barricades the door, and when her lord and master returns he finds it impossible to effect an entry into his own house. Goaded by passion, the unhappy man takes a sudden resolution, and runs away from wife, home, and St. Malo, to plunge into all the gayeties of fast life in Paris, under the propitious guidance of Mlle. Simonne. His pockets happen to be well lined, for they contain a large sum, which his wife had given him during the day to place in the hands of her notary. This first part of the piece is all highly amusing, full of frank, jovial fun; but the concluding portion lags heavily enough, and the humor is strained. Now, for the first time, we hear of the illustrious potentate who gives the piece its title. He is a Russian, the wealthy protector of the charming Mlle. Simonne, and that young lady, when she has drawn as much money and amusement from Cardinet as suits her purposes, prepares to send him back to St. Malo. To accomplish this, she determines to terrify him by the apparition of the terrible Prince, and Escoloubine is dressed up to personify his Highness. Meanwhile the real Prince, who has become aware of the farce that is being enacted, hides himself in the next room to enjoy the fun. The mock Prince, in his interview with Cardinet, takes in the most business-like way the conduct of the latter in carrying off Simonne from him. "You have her now," he says, "and you may keep her; you will have the pleasure of henceforth paying her debts, and the 200,000 francs which I allow her!" Cardinet is taken somewhat aback by the magnitude of these figures; but at last he has an inkling that he is being made game of, so he at once tackles the false Prince in the most free-and-easy way, slapping him on the back, poking him in the ribs, and asking him with the most sovereign contempt if they take such a fellow as that for a Highness. At that instant the real Prince appears; but Cardinet treats him as just as much an impostor as Escoloubine, the result being that the Russian loses his temper and challenges the citizen of St. Malo to a duel. By the happiest luck in the world Cardinet wounds his adversary, and, on returning in high feather to his abode, finds there his repentant wife, who has abjured all her former prudery, and, in order to please her husband, is ready to adopt the latest Paris fashions in her dress, and to make every sacrifice if only Cardinet will consent to return to St. Malo. The worthy citizen is nothing loth; he has had his spree in the gay capital, has squandered all his money, and Simonne has declared that she is not worthy of him, for that astute young lady has not the least intention of surrendering her grasp on the Russian's money-bags. In the cast appeared M. Geoffroy as Cardinet, Mlle. Alice Regnault as Mlle. Simonne, and M. Brasseur as Escoloubine.

"THE QUEEN'S JEWELS, OR THE PURITAN'S BRIDE."

A drama by R. Dodson, bearing the above title, was produced at the East London Theatre, London, Eng., Nov. 25, upon which date that establishment was reopened under the management of Morris Abrahams. The plot is as follows: "The action commences on the eve of the battle of Edge Hill. Outside an old hostelry, villagers and others are preparing the revels to welcome home Sir Felix Devereux, a staunch old Royalist, who has been on foreign service for King Charles. Violet Devereux, during her father's absence, has clandestinely married a young Puritan (Walter Harcourt), whose rebel tendencies render it imperative (for the present) to keep their marriage a secret. Walter joins the rebel army, and their infant is entrusted to their mutual friend Captain Rowley, Violet, the Royalist's daughter (now a Puritan's bride), being left to divulge the secret to her father, and to implore his forgiveness. A discarded lover of Violet, one Ralph Brandon, has traced to the old hall (the residence of Sir Felix) a chest containing State jewels, sent there for safety by Queen Henrietta. This knowledge serves his treacherous purpose, and places the heroine in jeopardy. Sir Felix returns, and a furious cannonade announces the civil strife to have commenced. A rebel leader unwittingly seeks refuge at the hall, and Violet, knowing he fights on her husband's side, conceals him. The Royalist, Sydney Beauchamp, comes in search, and avows that the escaped rebel leader is Cromwell. Excited with success, he throws his glove on the table, expressing his desire to meet Cromwell alone. The challenge (for the present) is met by the rebel leader, silently emerging from his hiding-place, taking Sydney's glove, and leaving in its place his own iron gauntlet. The discovery is made, the secret panel is detected, but too late to secure the rebel, for the passage leads to a ruined abbey, and he has escaped. The strife is renewed, and the Puritans in turn triumph. The keys of the vault that contains the jewels fall into the hands of Brandon, but are recovered by Violet. Incensed at being foiled, Brandon fires the hall. A conflict ensues between him and Sir Felix, when Walter Harcourt arrives, but too late to save the old hall, and its pillage and destruction by fire closed act one. The second act introduces Cromwell successful, but apprehensive, for King Charles requests a parley. He fears treachery, and asks Walter to prepare for an emergency. At Brandon's request Cromwell grants an order for the arrest of Sir Felix and Violet. Walter hears this with horror, and determines to thwart it. He is also apprised that Rowley has returned with his child to England. Sir Felix and Violet have taken refuge at the old manor-house. Here Violet divulges her secret, and Sir Felix hears with agony that his daughter is a Puritan's bride. His love for a moment turns to hate; and, with bitter imprecations, he proceeds to curse her and her rebel husband. At an opportune moment Sir Felix is confronted with the child, this emblem of innocence staying the curse and making peace for Violet just as Brandon with his myrmidons arrive to arrest father and daughter, who are dragged to the Old Gate-house Prison. The child, torn from its mother, is entrusted to the tender mercies of Brandon's accomplice. Walter is too late to stay these proceedings. His duties call him to the Maiden's Oak to attend a parley. Here he saves Cromwell's life, and we arrive at the close of act two. There is a lapse of time between the second and third acts; and when the curtain again rises we find that Charles the First has been defeated and beheaded, and that Cromwell reigns as Lord Protector. Sydney Beauchamp and other Royalists, with Sir Felix and his daughter, are incarcerated in the Old Gate-house Prison, and Brandon has succeeded in abstracting the chest of Royal deeds and jewels from the ruins of Devereux Hall. He is, however, detected by Cromwell, and the treasure is transferred intact to the care of Walter. Brandon arouses the Protector's suspicions with regard to the prisoners, and he determines to interrogate them himself, and discovers that Violet is the lady who saved his life at Devereux Hall. The chest, by his orders, is opened. The contents reveal Brandon's guilt, and proves the innocence of Violet and her father. The villain Brandon is led off to death, and the approval of the Protector is secured for the union of Walter Harcourt with the Royalist's daughter." The cast included James Carden as Cromwell, Mr. Charlton as Sir Devereux, Miss Granger as Violet, and Mr. Thomas as Harcourt.

"LES MARIAGES RICHES,"

a three-act comedy by M. Dreyfus, succeeded "Fromont Jeune et Risler Aine" at the Vaudeville Theatre, Paris. A sketch of the plot is given below: "Hector Blandin is a young *viveur*, about to contract a wealthy marriage with Mlle. Ribaudet. But before this union can be accomplished he has to rid himself of his mistress, Amelie Cruchot, and, as the best means of attaining this end in an effective manner, determines to find a husband for her. He will give her a handsome marriage-portion, under pretext that she is his goddaughter, and will trust to the lady-manager of a matrimonial-agency to find the husband he is in search of. This person, Madame De Sainte-Herminie, has a large number of clients on her books, and is celebrated for her success in arranging rich marriages. In the present instance she has ready at hand exactly the *parti* of whom Hector is in quest. He is a well-preserved widower, with a moderate income. Hector has no idea of the fact at the time, but the gentleman selected by Madame De Sainte-Herminie to be the husband of the young man's cast-off mistress is no other than his own future father-in-law, M. Ribaudet. But Ribaudet has a brother-in-law, one M. Laviolette, whose wife is a fashionable milliner in the Chausee d'Antin. Amelie, while waiting for her marriage to be arranged, takes a situation in Mme. Laviolette's shop. That lady's husband runs away to hide himself the moment he perceives the girl. His conscience is oppressed by the remorseful recollection of a conjugal error which he had formerly committed, and he believes that Amelie is his daughter. He had reared and educated the girl, giving her to understand that she belonged to a noble family, of which he was merely the steward, until one fine day she disappeared, and he had never heard of her since until she turned up in this unexpected way in his wife's shop. He hears of the marriage-portion which the girl has received from a godfather, of whose existence he had hitherto been unaware, and a sudden suspicion crosses his mind that perhaps he has been deceived by Amelie's mother, and that this generous individual may, after all, be the girl's real father. To satisfy his mind on these points off he starts for St. Quentin, where he has been given to understand the giver of the marriage-portion lives. Naturally enough, his search for that individual proves fruitless; but he succeeds in discovering instead the real father of Amelie, to whom, in deference to the most convincing proofs, he cedes all the rights and duties of paternity which he had hitherto so conscientiously fulfilled. This person happens to be a partner in the matrimonial agency. Old Ribaudet, it should be mentioned, when he comes to Mme. De Sainte-Herminie's office, recognizes in the photograph of Amelie, which is shown him, that of his future son-in-law's mistress, whom he was almost on the point of marrying without knowing it. The confusion to which all these incidents give rise is complicated by a pianiste, who is in love with Hector's fiancee. Hector is of course in a terrible state of perplexity when he discovers that he is likely to have for mother-in-law his former mistress. Finally, after a succession of the most ridiculous mistakes and *quidproquos*, all is arranged satisfactorily. Ribaudet will continue in his widowed state, Hector marries his daughter; and as for Amelie, she becomes the lawful spouse of a petty provincial shopkeeper, who had sought the aid of the matrimonial agency in his lookout for a wife likely to look well behind his counter. The piece is more bustling than witty, but it contains several burlesque situations that make it amusing enough." Delanoy appeared as Ribaudet, Parade as Laviolotte, Joumard as Hector, and Mlle. Kalb as Amelie.

"CREMORNE,"

a "farcical comedy in three acts," by J. A. Palmer, was first acted at the Strand Theatre, London, Nov. 27. The story is described in these words: "It opens in the house of Mrs. Gayleigh, a young widow, who has as suitors Roderick Wilddish, a rake, and Bob Joskin, 'a young man from the country,' aping the manners of the London snob. Roderick is the favorite suitor; for the widow, thinking with regret of the wild habits of her first husband, is deceived by the modest ways of the artful Roderick, who professes to be a patron of Exeter Hall, and whose heart is set upon no amusements more frivolous than such as are to be found at the Polytechnic. But Roderick has any number of strings to his bow. That very night he has promised to take to Cremorne a certain pretty dressmaker rejoicing in the name of Mary Ann Stubbs, who, to his horror, he finds working in the very house of the lady to whom he has been making love. But Roderick is a man of many resources and unbounded impudence. He has just been 'cheeking it out' with old Joskin and his wife, who have accused him of attacks with flour and pea-shooters on the road from the 'Derby,' and he now makes good his escape and avoids detection by *accidentally* throwing over the head of the pretty dressmaker the shawl which he has pretended to admire. The second act takes us to Cremorne, where Roderick, supposed to have gone to Exeter Hall with a boasted rich uncle, is sporting with the dressmaker. Mrs. Gayleigh has been induced by the Joskin family to accompany them to the same place, and what fun there is is caused by the attempts of Roderick to escape detection, and by the misfortunes of Mrs. Gayleigh's gardener, Job Hope, who, having obliged a friend by taking his place as a waiter, executes any number of orders without being able to get his money. In the third act we are again at Mrs. Gayleigh's house, she being full of anger at the thought that she has been imposed upon. Her anger is not a little enhanced when she sees upon the finger of Mary Ann Stubbs the very ring which she had the previous day given to Roderick as a pledge of affection. Roderick once more comes to 'cheek it out.' He is in the rather fast costume of the previous evening, and he meets the lady's reproaches with a torrent of words which are overwhelming. She must be mistaken through his extraordinary likeness to his cousin—his demure, sober, industrious, domesticated cousin—the patron of Exeter Hall. Roderick's impudence has the desired effect. He presently returns in more sober garb, and, having by a *ruse* regained possession of the ring, he still further convinces the lady of her error, although an amusing difficulty turns up in the fact that the artificial curl of the previous night has not yet departed from his hair. Complete exposure, however, is at hand, for in Roderick Job Hope, in spite of any number of winks and nods, recognizes his scapegrace nephew. The game is up; there is nothing for it but confession and the hope of forgiveness; and when the curtain falls we are left to imagine that it will not be long ere Roderick Wilddish and Lydia Gayleigh will have joined their hands and hearts and fortunes." W. H. Vernon was the Roderick, H. J. Turner the Jeremy, J. G. Taylor the Bob, Harry Cox the Job, Miss Sallie Turner the Mrs. Joskin, Miss Lottie Venn the Mary Ann, and Miss F. Brunell the young widow.

"PERFIDE COMME L'ONDE"

is the name of a one-act piece, by Octave Gastineau, recently produced at the Vaudeville Theatre, Paris. It is a mere sketch, intended to convey an idea of what the author probably imagines are the ordinary petty trecheries which ladies in high society are guilty of towards each other. A marquise and a baronne, Caroline De Merval and Fernande Du Plessis, are rivals for the affections of a high-placed lover. For the former lady's conduct may be found some excuse, for she is a widow, and would like, perhaps, to change her name once more; but Madame Du Plessis is married, and only on pleasure bent. The two ladies, who pass for the closest friends in the world, are exuberantly prodigal of all sorts of mutual sweet words and caresses, while all they are planning is what sort of ugly trick they can play each on the other. Madame De Merval arranges matters so cleverly that her friend is seen in a box at the opera with a fashionable man-milliner, whom she has been led to mistake for a grand seigneur; while Madame Du Plessis, not to be distanced by her rival, passes off her maid Juliette as a rich English noblewoman, Lady Bakston, and Madame de Merval takes her with her to a grand concert, at which all the Faubourg St. Germain is assembled. Finally the rivals discover that their mutual perfidies have not advanced or lowered them in the slightest degree in the estimation of the brilliant Marquis, at whom they have been setting their caps, as it appears he has been paying his attentions in the most prosaic way imaginable to no other than Juliette the maid.

RELICTS OF THE MOUND-BUILDERS.—A valuable treasure has been recently received by the Peabody Museum of Yale College—nearly a thousand specimens of ancient pottery dug up in Missouri. They are supposed to be about 2,000 years old.

CLIPPER VARIETIES.

Comprising Ballads, Songs and Dances, Comic Songs, Old Bills, etc.

WRITTEN AND COLLATED EXPRESSLY FOR THE CLIPPER.

CHRISTMAS BILL OF FARE for Minstrel Performers.

BY M. J. NEVILLE.

SOUP.
Chicken, with the "bones" removed.
FISH.
Shad *Roe(s)*.
ENTREES.
Welch Rarebits, Limburger Cheese packed in *Cotton* direct from Germany.
ROAST.
Pig with the *H(e)art* taken out.
VEGETABLES.
French Peas, *Sweat(man)* Potatoes.
GAME.
Fox done *Brown*.
DESSERT.
Rice Pudding, Preserved *Quinces*, Persimmons.
DRINKS.
Birch beer, *Kelly* Island Catawba, Old *Kentucky* Bourbon, Dublin *Stout*. (This is a bad drink for any man that has *Benedicted* to drinking. You can remove the "cork" from the bottle if you're *Armstrong*.)
REMARKS.
After you *Reed* the bill of fare, you are requested to *Leav(e)itt* on the table, as it is kept for *Da(i)ly* use. Dinner ready when the *Horn* blows. The *Price* of dinner to *Newcom(b)ers* is $1. Gents will please hang their hats on the rack in the *Hall*. The *Bar* (is on the) *low(er)* floor beneath, superintended by a man from the *Western* country; but he has the *Powers* in him to make a good cocktail with very *Little* gin.

COME BACK TO ME, DARLING.

BY ARTHUR W. FRENCH.

Come back to me, darling—I miss you
Far more than I ever can say—
I'm longing to lovingly kiss you;
Oh, why do you wander away?
'Tis many sad days since we parted—
I watch for thy sweet face in vain;
Why leave me so lonely-hearted?
Come back to me, darling, again.
Chorus.—Come back to me, darling—I miss you,
The dear little queen of my heart;
Come back while I lovingly kiss you,
And tell thee how precious thou art.

Come back to me, darling—don't leave me,
But hasten once more to my side,
Where naught in the wide world shall grieve thee
Nor sadness nor sorrow betide.
Thy sweet face is haunting me ever—
I long for thy joyous refrain;
No longer each loving tie sever,
Come back to me, darling again.
Chorus.—Come back to me, etc.

Come back to me, darling, and cheer me
With promises ever so true;
While happy in lingering near thee,
My pledges of love I'll renew.
No sorrows shall darken the vision
Of moments that sweetly remain,
But only the heart's fair elysian—
Come back to me, darling, again.
Chorus.—Come back to me, etc.

Bridgeport, Ct.

ONE OF DAN RICE'S "Farewell Tours" in 1859, and Yet He is Still Before the Public.

N. J. Morton of Taunton, Mass., contributes an advertisement cut from a local journal of the period named. Dan Rice is traveling with a small show in the West and South; Mrs. Dan Rice, now Mrs. Charles Warner, is living in this city in retirement; John H. Murray is now proprietor and manager of the circus bearing his name; George Holland is dead; Julian Kent is before the public.

DAN RICE'S GREAT SHOW.
SUPERB EQUESTRIAN COMPANY AND ZOOLOGICAL ENTERTAINMENT.
THE GREAT SHOW
will give two grand exhibitions, afternoon and evening, at
TAUNTON, MONDAY, JULY 11.
Performance at 2 and 7½ P. M.
Admission, only 25 cents. No half price.

This reduction, less than it has hitherto been, is made uniform in order to afford the public the only opportunity they will ever have again of seeing the greatest of LIVING HUMORISTS, this being

DAN RICE'S FAREWELL TOUR.
Those who never saw him should see him now,
Before he makes his last farewell bow.

This establishment returns thanks for the generous patronage which has already been so frequently bestowed while under its previous management, and is gratified to say that, while the series of entertainments are multiplied to almost an incredible number, its new resources of artists and appointments are undoubtedly of the best and most judicious selection, each artist being himself a star, the whole forming

A BRILLIANT CONSTELLATION.
Every attractive feature known to the palmy days of the great show will still characterize its existence. The distinguished humorist

DAN RICE
will positively appear at every performance, and to add to the effect of each he will lecture and give appropriate commentaries upon the topics of the day. To illustrate the graceful and rapid studies of the new school of lady equestrianism,

MRS. DAN RICE
will appear on her favorite racer DANIEL WEBSTER, together with the milk-white steed SURRY.
Another interesting feature of the exhibition is the
REMARKABLE TRAINED ANIMALS,
reduced from their native wildness to the docility characterizing domestic favorites of their species.
THE ROMAN BROTHERS,
Messrs. JOHN H. MURRAY and GEORGE HOLLAND,
have just returned from their foreign tour, crowned with laurels, and will appear in their classic and striking groupings, poses and tableaux.
The irresistible
JULIAN KENT
will present his farcical interludes and peculiar oddities.
MISS ESTELLA BARCLAY,
the much admired juvenile equestrienne and charming vocalist.
THOMAS CANHAM,
leader of the Keystone Band, unequaled as Chef du Orchestra since the dejour of Jullien and Musard.
The ANIMAL WONDERS and ZOOLOGICAL CURIOSITIES consist of the
RHINOCEROS "GEN. PUTNAM," OR UNICORN OF HOLY WRIT,
which in all times "has been considered untamable." Dr. Livingstone, the great African Explorer, endorses this opinion. But this animal will be turned loose into the arena, and perform incredible feats, proving by its tame submission that what could not be done in the past has in the future been accomplished.
THE DANCING ELEPHANT LALLA ROOKH,
another instance of animal sagacity, rendered graceful by training; she will positively walk the tight-rope.
THE GOAT OF SYRIA
in his various feats and antics.
The various breeds of horses will excite special attention.
The performance will open with a cavalcade entitled "The Flitch of Bacon."
THE TALKING HORSE EXCELSIOR,
who is not dead, the various reports to the contrary notwithstanding, will perform those wonderful acts, which to believe must be seen.
THE AMERICAN MUSTANG EUREKA, OR THE WILD DENIZEN OF THE RANCHE,
LADY MARGARET,
whose superior beauty and muscular development and imposing action are exhibited by the expert Kentuckian
CHARLES REED.
Six dapple grays together in the arena, under the control of John H. Murray.
Rebecca and Rachel, guided by the skillful youth
MASTER FRED BARCLAY.
THE EDUCATED MULES
Pete and Barney Duffy are the only animals of the kind that can perform all that is claimed for them. It has cost Mr. Rice years of training and a rigid course of discipline to bring them to their present condition. They are the great comics of the age.
THE GRAND CAVALCADE,
consisting of the entire retinue of the establishment, and the animals' great den, drawn by twenty black Pennsylvania horses, will enter the town about 10 A.M., accompanied by the Keystone Brass Band, led by the exquisite bugler Prof. Canham.
C. H. CASTLE, Agent.

THAT FELLOW FROM KALAMAZOO.

Comic Song.

To FRED MCAVOY, Esq
BY JOHN MCVEIGH.

I'll sing of a gay young man—
He is neither tall nor bent—
He never was known to miss a meal,
And never would pay a cent;
His ears they were six by nine,
He wore neither boot nor shoe,
And he'd eat his grub in a wooden tub—
That fellow from Kalamazoo.
Chorus.—But he went and joined a circus,
And swore that he'd ne'er come back
With his cranberry ear and horse-hair wig
And big red carpet-sack.
His name it was Billy Blon-zoo,
He wore neither boot nor shoe,
He's a hump-back kind of a comical cuss—
That fellow from Kalamazoo.

He drove a four-horse wagon,
Had charge of a great big "monk,"
He packed his clothes with very great care,
And stowed them in the elephant's trunk;
He rode the mules in the entree,
And took a back at tumbling, too;
You can bet your life he's a daisy—is
That fellow from Kalamazoo.
Chorus.—But he went and joined a circus, etc.

One day very mad he became,
'Cause the gang at his nibs did laugh,
So he bit off the ear of the kangaroo,
And he slaughtered the poor giraffe;
He eat up the polar bear,
Broke the camel's back in two, [down—
Then went for the clown and knocked him
That fellow from Kalamazoo.
Chorus.—But now he's left the circus,
He has settled down in life;
He married Miss Brown, from this same town,
And she's proved to be a good wife;
He helps the boys, they say,
And to his friends he's true,
And he's running a three-cent beer-saloon
Away out in Kalamazoo.

From the Knickerbocker Magazine for March, 1837.

EDWIN FORREST IN ENGLAND.—The success of our countryman Forrest in England is not less honorable to his genius and character, than it is gratifying to his numerous friends and admirers in America. His whole career, since his first appearance on the boards of Drury-lane, has been one of constant triumph, until he at last stands on a prouder histrionic eminence than in his most sanguine moments he could ever have hoped to attain. The journals of the metropolis, with but one or two exceptions, unite in awarding to him the first place among living actors, in either hemisphere; and his personations, in their entire detail, of Shakespeare's heroes, are pronounced in many respects equal, if not superior, to the best of the elder Kean. We gather from a recent letter of Mr. Forrest's in *The Plaindealer* of this city (New York) that the honors which have been privately tendered him in London have been more gratifying than his public reception. At a dinner given him by the Garrick Club, Sergeant Talfourd, author of "Ion," presided, and made a highly complimentary speech, to which Mr. Forrest replied. Macready had welcomed and applauded him in the warmest manner; and from Messrs. Stephen Price and Charles Kemble he had received three swords, which were once the property of John Philip Kemble, Talma, and Kean, as tokens of the admiration and esteem of the donors. An original portrait, in oil, of Garrick had also been presented him, and his own, in the character of Macbeth, in the dagger-scene, was in preparation for the next exhibition at the Somerset House. At the last advices, Mr. Forrest was performing an engagement at Liverpool, to crowded audiences. The journals of that city are unanimous and enthusiastic in his praise. After a brief engagement at Manchester, he was to return to London, to appear in a new tragedy, written expressly for him by Miss Mitford, and in the character of Richard the Third, in the representation of which he conceives some important changes for the better may be made. We hope the lesson conveyed in the following passage from Mr. Forrest's letter will not be lost upon American audiences: "The London audiences have a quick and keen perception of the beauties of the drama. They seem, from the timeliness and proportion of their applause, to possess a previous knowledge of the text. They applaud warmly, but seasonably. They do not interrupt a passion, and oblige an actor to sustain it beyond the propriety of nature; but, if he delineates it forcibly and truly, they reward him in the intervals of the dialogue. Variations from the accustomed modes—though not in any palpable new readings, which for the most part are bad readings, for there is generally but one mode positively correct, and that has not been left for us to discover—but slight change in emphasis, tone or action—delicate shadings and pencilings—are observed with singular and most gratifying quickness. You find that your study of Shakespeare has not been thrown away; that your attempt to grasp the character in its 'gross and scope,' as well as in its detail, so as not merely to know how to speak what is written, but to preserve its truth and keeping in a new succession of incidents, could it be exposed to them—you find that this is seen and appreciated by the audience; and the evidence that they see and feel is given with an emphasis and heartiness that make the theatre shake."

GOOD-BYE, BRYAN.

BY CHARLES MACGINNIS.

DEDICATED TO MY FRIEND BRYAN O'LYNN.

I remember one December
I started out upon a lark;
The wind was howlin', I went prowlin'
Round the strates all in the dark.
'Twas a purty night, the stars shone bright,
The frost it caused me brain to whirl;
So down me throttle I spill'd the bottle,
And was ready to fight or court a girl.

Spoken.—Yis, 'twas a clear, frosty night, d'ye see? an' I was after kapin' me spirits up by pourin' some down. Sure I thought the least drap in the wurruld wouldn't hurt me, but begorra I was after takin' a drap at a time till the divil of a drap was left in the bottle at all, an' I found mesilf lookin' six ways for Sunday. After a while I found mesilf standin' fominst the door of ould Pat Glancy's shanty, an' hurroin' like blazes for his daughter Mary Ann to come down an' lave me in, when, shtickin her head out o' the windy above, she says: "Is that you, Bryan?" says she. "It's no one else," says I. "Where was ye?" says she. "I was down at Duffy's," says I. "An' what wor ye doin' down at Duffy's?" says she. "Shure we was tryin' to wake him," says I. "Oh, ho! so ye wor down at the wake?" says she. "I was, thin," says I. "An' what are ye doin' wid callin' me out o' me bed this hour o' the noight?" says she. "Shure I call'd ye up for to wake yerself," says I. "Arrah, none o' your blarney, now," says she. "Well, come down an' lave me in," says I. "I will not," says she. "Ye won't?" says I. "No, I won't," says she. "Very well, ma'am," says I, "bedad I'll lave mesilf in, thin," says I, an' wid that I made a break for the back-door through the woodshed, whin Mary Ann began to sing:

Chorus.—Good-bye, Bryan; divil a word o' lie in
What I'm after sayin' agin—
Don't ye tease me, now be aisy,
Be off wid yer tricks, Mr. Bryan O'Lynn.

Over pots and pans and kettles and cans
I found mesilf a-stumblin'—
With the kits and cats and the dogs and rats,
Together we wint a-tumblin';
I blackened me eye, and began to cry
For the girl to come and open the door;
I bate a retreat when I reached the strate—
Bedad, I'll never go there any more.

Spoken.—Be me sowl, but I thought I'd "jist landed" in Bedlam, wid the pigs a-gruntin', the dogs a-barkin,' the cats a-yawlin,' the girl a-bawlin', an' mesilf a sprawlin' upon the flure wid me fut in the ash-barrel, an' me head rammed through an ould sour cheese, and into a pot of softsoap. Begorra, I was a sight for a father, an' as soon as iver I could I got mesilf together agin (faith, I was all gone abroad), and I made a bee line for the door and out o' the gate, an' the divil blow me if ivery inch o' the way home I didn't hear the little blackguard, Mary Ann, shoutin' in me ears at the top of her voice:

Chorus.—Good-bye, Bryan, etc.

St. Louis, Nov., '76.

MISS CLARA MORRIS

Eleven Years ago in Cleveland, O.

Owen Fawcett, the well-known comedian, contributes the bill of which a copy is annexed. Miss Lotta, who is fulfilling a star engagement at the Park Theatre, in this city, was at that time engaged by B. F. Whitman, at a moderate salary, to play Tartarine in the spectacle, the scenery and appointments of which he transported through the country. Lotta has since acquired fame and fortune. John Ellsler is now manager of the Euclid-avenue Opera-house, in the same city, and also comanager of Library Hall, Pittsburg; J. E. Irving was one of the company recently performing in Niblo's Garden, in this city; J. Ogden is now the assistant scenic-artist in the Euclid-avenue Opera-house, in that city; Ed. Volz died in Cleveland, O., Dec. 2, 1875; Little Annie Ellsler is a member of her father's company, as is Mrs. Effie Ellsler; Miss Isabella Howitt is in this city, in temporary retirement; Mrs. J. E. Irving is in temporary retirement; Simcoe Lee is before the public; Frank H. Murdoch was a brother of Harry S. Murdoch, who lost his life by the conflagration of the Brooklyn Theatre, and also the author of "Davy Crockett," now being performed by Frank Mayo—he died in Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 13, 1872, and his death is said to have been hastened by the adverse criticism his last play, "Bohemia," received from the critics of the press in that city; Miss Clara Morris is now acting in this city; R. H. Geary is the manager of the Academy of Music, which is now rented to combinations; and T. V. Jones is agent for traveling companies.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.
John Ellsler..Manager
R. H. Geary.......Treasurer | T. V. Jones.......Prompter
PRICES OF ADMISSION—Dress-circle and parquet, 50c.; reserved seats, dress-circle, 75c.; family-circle, 50c.; orchestra seats, 75c.; private boxes, $5 and $8; single seats in private boxes, $1; gallery, 25c.
Benefit of the charming young comedienne
MISS LOTTA,
and last night but one of her engagement.
Last night but one of the grand spectacle
THE SEVEN DAUGHTERS OF SATAN.
FRIDAY EVENING, DEC. 22, 1865,
will be presented, for the fifth time,
THE SEVEN DAUGHTERS OF SATAN,
which will be presented with magnificent scenery, superb costumes, brilliant music, and wonderful mechanism, replete with grand marches, dances and choruses, concluding with Whitman's last grand scene, the most magnificent ever presented upon any stage, imported from Philadelphia expressly for this occasion, representing the
BIRTH OF CUPID IN THE BOWER OF FERNS,
produced at an immense outlay. Will be found particularly grand and effective. Mirrors of plate-glass are used, forming a lake of silver. Moving fairy cars, revolving gems, etc., concluding with the magnificent Shower of Gold.
IMMORTALS.
Tartarine, with Songs, Hornpipe, Solo on the Banjo, Irish Dance, etc.......................................Miss Lotta
Pluto, the very Devil of a King..................John Ellsler
Mrs. Pluto, his better half, an eccentric but estimable lady...J. E. Irving
Cuffee, one of the original Sable Brothers, an unmitigated nuisance, in everybody's way, never accomplishing anything good.......................J. Ogden
Cornlot Redeye, with an eye to business.........Ed. Voltz
Corncob, the old gentleman's gentleman..M. J. Heyburne
Ceres, an estimable lady, and introduced solely for the purpose of introducing the last scene,
Miss Lizzie Herbert
Spirit of Arthur's Sister.................Miss Annie Keyser
Cupid, a well-known spirit.............Little Annie Ellsler
Diavoline, of the Seven Daughters, sent on a Mission to earth, assuming various disguises, but who are reluctantly compelled to dissemble wherever they assemble, in order to carry out their grand project...Mrs. Effie Ellsler
Plutella.......................................Miss Isabella Howitt

Sulphurine	The remaining four of the Seven Sisters, who, in the most able manner, assist the diableries of their sisters, assuming various characters	Miss J.E. Irving
Facanella		Miss F. Forrester
Satanella		Miss Mary Wall
Caotadile		Miss Ada Jones

MORTALS.
Arthur Crayon, Author and Artist..............Mr. Simcoe Lee
Snell, a copy for a Naturalist..............Mr. F. H. Murdoch
Mary Greenleaf.................................Miss Clara Morris
NOTICE.—Citizens and strangers will please take notice that there will be a GRAND AFTERNOON PERFORMANCE ON CHRISTMAS DAY. A splendid bill will be offered.
In preparation, the great Irish legendary drama of
ARRAH NA POGUE,
so successful in all the Eastern cities.
Colored persons will, under no circumstances, be permitted to occupy seats in any other portion of the house save the gallery. Admission, 25 cents.
SPECIAL NOTICE.—No whistling or rude noise will be allowed. Proper applause will always be appreciated; but those who, after this notification, will persist in disturbing ladies and gentlemen with loud and disagreeable whistling or noise may rest assured that officers will be in attendance to remove them. The manager begs strict compliance with this very reasonable request.

THE LADY-KILLER.

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO MISS MINNIE HALL, MALE IMPERSONATOR.

Could Cupid ever boast these curls,
Or young Adonis form like this?
I am the pet of all the girls,
And try my best to crown their bliss.
I'm called by all the pretty fair—
A lady-killer gay and free—
Apollo and the Belvedere
In classic pose can't rival me.
Chorus.—A sight of me the girls enjoy—
I make their little bosoms sigh—
'Tis not that I'm a pretty boy,
But mischief's in my eye.

I cannot stroll along the street
Unless the ladies on me gloat,
And I have love-notes short and sweet
In every pocket of my coat.
The widows just as well as maids
Are stuck for me through cupid's darts;
I know a pretty queen of spades
Who wants me for her jack of hearts.
Chorus.—A sight of me, etc.

I've got two neighbors, young and fair—
And let me here confess to you
That I am puzzled, and declare
I cannot choose between the two.
If things continue in this way,
Upon my heart I'll screw a lock,
And to the charmers all must say:
"'Tis occupied—no use to knock."
(*Throws open his coat, and shows on left side of vest a large pasteboard-heart, on which is written or printed "Occupied."*)
Chorus.—A sight of me the girls enjoy,
I make their little hearts beat high;
'Tis not that I'm a pretty boy,
But mischief's in my eye.

A. P. KNOTT.

VESTVALI'S FAREWELL TOUR OF AMERICA.

Felicita Vestvali, who has won high reputation on both the operatic and the dramatic stage, made a farewell tour of the United States in 1867, and shortly afterwards sailed for England. She played a brief season in London, and then returned to Germany, where she has since been acting, oftentimes being the manager of the theatre in which she performed. J. J. O'Connor of New Orleans sends a bill of her performances in that city, of which a copy is annexed. Ben De Bar is manager of the Opera-house, St. Louis, Mo.; Edward Eddy died in Kingston, Jamaica, Dec. 18, 1875; E. L. Tilton is at the Globe Theatre, Boston, Mass.; J. Winter is in retirement and keeping a hotel in the western part of this State; Oliver Wren is before the public; G. C. Brydon may still be living; O. B. Collins is at the Holliday-street Theatre, Baltimore, Md.; M. B. Pike is in Chicago, Ill.; W. B. Douglass died in New Orleans, La., Sept. 27, 1867; we have not heard of T. B. Douglass for some years, but we have no record of his death; C. R. Manley and Miss Alice Placide are before the public; Mrs. E. F. Keach died in San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 25, 1870; Frank Pierce and Millie Sackett still follow the profession.

ST. CHARLES THEATRE.
St. Charles street.
Proprietors.............................Ben De Bar & E. Eddy
Manager ....E. Eddy
Stage-manager.....................................E. L. Tilton
MONDAY EVENING, FEB. 11, 1867.
FAREWELL TO AMERICA.
Positively last week of the eminent lyric tragedienne.
VESTVALI
"THE MAGNIFICENT."
To-night she will appear as
HENRI LAGADERE
in the original dramatic version of
THE DUKE'S MOTTO, OR LE BOSSU,
with the songs of "I Am a Dashing Cavalier" and her celebrated Spanish song.
E. L. Tilton ....as...............Carrickfergus
This evening will be presented the
DUKE'S MOTTO, OR LE BOSSU.
SPECIAL NOTICE.—This play was originally produced at Niblo's Garden, New York, where it enjoyed an uninterrupted run of 200 nights to crowded houses. The version presented this evening is the only true and original one in the country, for the performance of which Vestvali possesses the sole right.

Capt. Henri De Lagadere, Vestvali	Prince Regent ...M. B. Pike
Carrickfergus...E. L. Tilton	Bonnerman ....J. Gobay
Esop, a Hunchback, J. Winter	Navaille.......T. B. Douglass
Hector Peyroles, Oliver Wren	Chavenay..........C. R. Manley
Lemuel, Chief of the Zingari..........G. C. Brydon	Innkeeper ....Hope
Duke de Gonzagues, O. B. Collins	Ustay, a Notary .....Simmons
Duke de Nevers, W. B. Douglass	Usher ....M. Super
	Messenger ......E. Woodward
	Duchess de Nemours, Mrs. Powell
	Blanche ..Miss Alice Placide
	Zillah ....Mrs. E. F. Keach

To conclude with the petite drama of
THE MAID WITH THE MILKING PAIL.
Lord Philander..F. E. Pierce | Dicon ....O. Wren
Algernon ....M. B. Pike | Milly............Miss M. Sackett
In rehearsal, and will be produced for the first time in many years, the romantic drama of "THE BRIGAND," with all the original music, new scenery, etc., and the celebrated pictures.
Massaroni the Brigand...Vestvali
FRIDAY EVENING—Farewell benefit of Vestvali.
SUNDAY, Feb. 17—Annual benefit of the treasurer.
In rehearsal, FAUSTUS.
TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 5, the annual Mardi Gras Ball will take place at this theatre.
Seats can be secured three days in advance. Doors open at 6.30; the overture commences at 7.30. Box-office open from 9 A. M. to 4 P. M.
PRICES OF ADMISSION.—Dress-circle and parquet, $1; family-circle, reserved and rearranged, 50 cts.; colored circle, 50cts.; gallery, 50cts.; private boxes, from $8 to $10; seats in quadroon boxes, 75 cts.; quadroon box, $4.

THE GAME OF CHESS.

To Correspondents.

H. J. C. ANDREWS.—Many thanks for your courteous letter and its valuable information.

JOHN GARDNER.—Very good. We were misled by that problem, and shall keep it for a diagram.

J. S. RYAN.—The game with Mr. Maurian is neither lost nor forgotten.

T. W. H., Milwaukee.—No; "B" cannot evade the check by castling. In English, Staunton; in German, *The Handbuch*.

J. M. SHAFFER.—Enig. 1,041, right; Prob. 1,041, right; Enig. 1,042, do.; Prob. 1,039, wrong, but enig. right; Prob. 1,035, right.

H. DAWSON, Baltimore.—Enig. 1,043, right; Prob. 1,043 is correctly printed.

BONE AND BOLTON.—Our contributor, the veteran Andrews, writes us the following, which will evoke a marked interest in the problemistic wing of Caissa's legions. He says: "Mr. Rimington Wilson, who has the finest chess library (probably) in England, has placed all his MSS. of Bone and Bolton's productions at my command for examination, with a view of editing the unpublished problems they comprise. * * * By way of a hint as to the quality of these opera, as compared with the standard required at present, Mr. A. adds: "I have already been through 100 by Bone, and have been amused at the extreme contrast between these and a similar number in Kohtz and Kockelkorn's Collection, which have recently afforded me a feast of chestnuts not to be cracked without *steam power*." * * * And, in connection with this subject, our contributor adds: "The comparison you made between T. M. Brown and our own Bolton is, I think, very apt. The latter was always, in my opinion, ahead of his period; and, had he been born twenty-five or thirty years later, would undoubtedly have excelled all other English composers, Healey included. There is a very similar ingenuity, variety and beauty of idea running through all T. M. B.'s problems, so far as I am acquainted with the latter."

Enigma No. 1,046.

Our Problem No. 998 had a second solution so palpable that no one has ever suspected the author's intention. We have just received an emendation, and another eminent critic now pronounces it perfect.

BY H. J. C. ANDREWS.

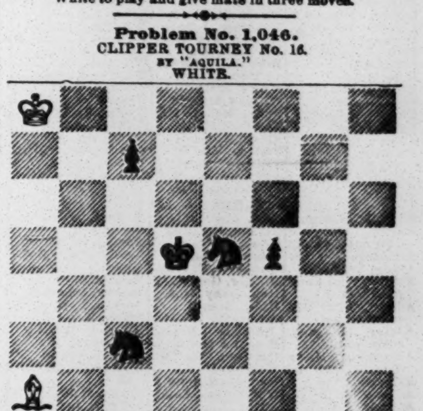
at Q Kt 5, Q B 3, Q R 2, Q B sq, K 2, K B 6, K Kt 4, K R 2.

at his 5, Q Kt 2, K 6, K Kt 4.

White to play and give mate in three moves.

Problem No. 1,046.

CLIPPER TOURNEY No. 16.
BY "AQUILA."
WHITE.



BLACK.
Black to play and give mate in four moves.

Game No. 1,046.

The following brilliant passage-at-arms between Mr. Bird and Mr. Clarke has been very much admired, and was thought by many to rival the Bird-Mason contest as "the Cup Game" of our recent tourney.

FRENCH OPENING.

Black, Mr. Bird.	White, Mr. Clarke.	Black, Mr. Bird.	White, Mr. Clarke.
1..P to K 4	P to K 3	20..Q to K 3	Kt × Q 2d P
2..P-Q 4	P-Q 4	21..Q Kt × Kt	B P × Kt
3..K P × P	K P × P	22..K Kt-K 5	K R-B 3
4..K Kt-B 3	K Kt-B 3	23..P-K B 4	K Kt-B sq
5..K B-Q 3	K B-Q 3	24..K B-B 2	Q B-K 3
6..Castles	Castles	25..P-K Kt 4 (e)	B P × P
7..Q Kt-B 3	Q Kt-B 3	26..R P × P	Q R-B sq
8..Q B-Kt 5	K B-K 2	27..K R-K 2	Q B-Kt sq (f)
9..P-K R 3	P-K R 3	28..P-K Kt 5	K R-Q 3
10..Q B-R 4	K Kt-R 2	29..Q R-K B sq	Q R-B 2
11..Q B × B	Q Kt × B	30..Q R-B 2	Q B-R 2
12..K Kt-R 4	P-K B 4 (a)	31..Q R-Kt 2	Q-her B sq (g)
13..K R-K sq (b)	P-Q B 3	32..P-K Kt 6	Q B-Kt sq
14..Q-K 2	K R-B 2	33..P-K B 5	Q-home
15..Q Kt-R 4 (c)	P-Q Kt 3	34..Q R-R 2	Q R-K 2
16..P-Q B 4	Q B-Q 2	35..K R-Kt 2	Q-K sq
17..Q Kt-B 3	K-his R sq	36..R × R P + (h)	K Kt-R 2
18..K Kt-B 3 (d)	Q Kt-Kt 3	37..Q R × Kt +	Q B × R
19..B P × P	Q Kt-B 5	38..K R-his 2	K R-Q B 3,

and the attack gives a mate in five moves, which 38..R × Kt would temporarily avert.

NOTES BY OUR CONTRIBUTOR.

(*a*) This move appears objectionable, as it leaves an open square for the adverse Kt at Kt 3, and also renders it difficult to get his own Q B advantageously into play.

(*b*) This is the correct move.

(*c*) With the view of advancing Q B P, or placing Kt at Q B 5, if Mr. Clarke 15..P to Q Kt 4.

(*d*) Q × Kt, sacrificing the Q for R and Kt, followed by doubling the Rooks, was also considered, and would have given the attack a fine position. [What a brilliant coruscation of chess thought!]

(*e*) The commencement of the fine attack which follows.

(*f*) Necessary, on account of the threatened move P to K Kt 5.

(*g*) 31..Q B to K 5, although costing a valuable P, would have afforded Mr. Clarke some relief.

(*h*) The decisive move. If P × R, a curious succession of sudden mates follows.

A Curiosum.

Out of several curious ingenuities presented us in Philadelphia by Mr. Richhelm, we this week present the following. Produce a game in which both players are to be stalemated, after twenty-five moves.

THE QUID PRO QUO OPENING.

1..P to K R 3	P to Q R 3	14..P to Q B 4	P to K B 4
2..K Kt-B 3	Q Kt-B 3	15..P-K Kt 4	P-Q Kt 4
3..K Kt-R 2	Q Kt-R 2	16..P-Q B 5	P-K B 5
4..P-K B 3	P-Q B 3	17..K B-Kt 2	Q B-Kt 2
5..P-Q Kt 4	P-K Kt 4	18..P-K 4	P-Q 4
6..Q Kt-R 3	K Kt-R 3	19..K-his 2	K-Q 2
7..Q Kt-B 4	K Kt-B 4	20..Q-K Kt sq	Q-Q Kt sq
8..Q Kt-K 5	K Kt-Q 5	21..R-K B sq	R-Q B sq
9..Q B-Kt 2	K B-Kt 2	22..Q B-K sq	K B-Q sq
10..Q B × Kt	K B × Kt	23..K-his B 2	K-Q B 2
11..Q B-B 2	K B-B 2	24..P-K 5	P-Q 5
12..P-Q R 4	P-K R 4	25..P-K 6	P-Q 6
13..P-Q R 5	P-K R 5		[Q. E. D.]

CHEQUERS.

To Correspondents.

E. BARBER.—Received, and will be attended to.

"NO NAME."—Come often.

M. J. S.—Thank you for recent favors.

MESSRS. BUSBY AND PRIEST have finished a match of 50 games, played at Philadelphia, as follows: Busby, 12; Priest, 12; drawn, 26 games.

CHEQUERS BY TELEGRAPH.—A match was recently played "over the wires" between our former correspondent W. E. Truax, champion of Minnesota, and D. Willard of Chicago. Result: Truax, 5; Willard, 1; drawn, 2 games.

THE LATE CONTEST between Messrs. Martins and Carstairs resulted in favor of the former player by 3 to 1, and 1 drawn game. It was played at Lafayette, Ind.

LETTERS have been received from A. E. M., Cummings and W. H. Brown.

THE VETERAN WYLLIE is playing away in "Bonnie Scotland."

Game No. 39, Vol. 24.

Played between Messrs. Yates and Wyllie, at Brooklyn, N. Y., in their recent match for the "championship of the world."

"AYRSHIRE LASSIE."

Black, Mr. Yates.	White, Mr. Wyllie.	Black, Mr. Yates.	White, Mr. Wyllie.
1..11 to 15	24 to 20	17..13 to 22	25 to 18
2..8 11	28 24	18..23 26	21 17
3..4 8 (a)	23 19	19..26 31	17 13
4..9 14 (b)	32 28	20..2 7 (e)	10 6
5..5 9	27 23	21..31 26	29 25 (f)
6..9 13	22 18	22..8 11	18 14
7..15 22	25 9	23..26 23 (g)	28 24
8..5 14	26 22	24..11 16	34 20
9..11 15	30 25	25..16 19	6 2
10..14 18 (c)	23 14	26..7 10	14 7
11..10 26	31 22	27..3 10	2 7
12..1 5	19 10	28..10 14	7 10
13..7 14	20 16	29..14 17	26 21
14..12 19	24 15	30..17 22	13 9
15..14 18	15 10	31..5 14	10 26
16..18 23	22 17 (d)	32..23 30	Drawn.

NOTES BY EDITOR D. D.

(*a*) 9 to 13 also draws. See Anderson, Variation 1.

(*b*) Neither Anderson nor Spayth gives this move, but play 15 to 18 and draw the game.

(*c*) The beginner will perceive a dangerous trap prepared by Mr. Wyllie's move, 30 to 25, which threatens 22 to 17, winning 3 for 1, landing at 4.

(*d*) Necessary to support the "skirmishers" at 10.

(*e*) Mr. Yates prefers this to allowing the exchange.

(*f*) A trap; if Black moves his king between the single men, White moves 6 to 2, winning 2 for 1. It will be understood that these notes are expressly for young students.

(*g*) With good play, the game may be dismissed at this point as drawn.

Solution of Position No. 38, Vol. 24.

BY H. T. SHELLHASS.

White.	Black.	White.	Black.
1..14 to 10	17 to 26	3..9 to 11	White wins.
2..23 21	7 14		

Solution of Enigma No. 38, Vol. 24.

BY J. S. MALONE.

Black.	White.	Black.	White.
1..4 to 8	2 to 9	3..11 to 15	3 to 10
2..3 7	12 3	4..15 24	Black wins.

Enigma No. 39, Vol. 24.

BY "NO NAME."

Black men on 1, 5, 11, 18, 20, 22 and 25. Black king on 4.
White men on 10, 13, 14, 16, 23, 27 and 29. White king on 31.
Black to move and win.

Position No. 39, Vol. 24.

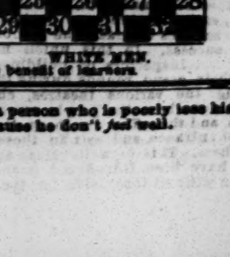
BY MR. H. D. LYMAN, D. C.

BLACK.

WHITE.
Black to move and win.

Numbered Board.

BLACK MEN.



WHITE MEN.
Given for the benefit of learners.

WHY DOES a person who is poorly lose his sense of touch? Because he don't *feel* well.

THEATRICAL RECORD.

Movements, Business, and Incidents of the Theatrical, Circus, Musical and Minstrel Professions.

THE CLIPPER POST-OFFICE.

☞ A STAMPED ENVELOPE, plainly addressed, must be inclosed for each and every letter, and the line of business followed by the party addressed should be given, in order to prevent mistakes.

NOTE.—Professionals and others should bear in mind that, by a late change in the postal laws, all letters, etc., in transit between the United States and Canadas, *must be prepaid*, otherwise they are not forwarded.

Letters received for week ending 5 P.M., MONDAY, Dec. 18.

LADIES' LIST.

Allyne, Kittie (2)
Alexander, Laura
Allen, Eloise
Adriana, Cora
Almonte, Mrs. Emma
Butler, Mrs. Robt.
Blackford, Lillian
Bailey, Ella
Beane, Fannie
Brevoort, Kate (2)
Bowers, Mrs. D. P.
Brandon, "Nell"
Baker, Ella
Blaisdell, Julia Peak 6c.
Bartholomew, Mrs. Mary
Blande, Edith
Cleves, Miss L.
Celeste & E. Munroe, Belle
Carroll, Sarah E.
Cooke, Mrs. Jas. E.
Crayton, Gussie
Cortland, Grace
Camarra, Marie
Conway, Mrs. Lizzie
De Granville, Mlle.
Dean, Amelia
D'Este, Mrs. Helen
Duvare, Jennie
Dargon, Augusta L. (2)
Duncan, Carrie
Delmay, Lu-lu
Dalton, Catharine
Devere, Helen
Dixon, Jennie S.
Dandass, Maria L.
Delmay, Lu-lu
Egberts, Nannie
Ellis, Millie
Ellis, Bessie
Elmore, Annie
Ellis Sisters
Eilenburg, Maude
Foy, Bertha
Francis, Lu-lu
Freeman Sisters
Grey, Alice (of Daly's 5th Ave. Co.)
Green, Annie
Geraldine, Mad.
Gilman, Ada (of Daly's 5th Ave. Co.)
Harrison, Miss H. H. (2)
Hedin, Ella
Herbert, Carrie
Hughes, "Angie" B.
Hindle, Annie
Henri Sisters
Johns, Effie
Jenner, Amy
Kneass, Mrs. Nelson (2)
Kellogg, Madam
Kent, Fannie
Kimbal, Fannie
Katzman, Pauline
Kingsbury, Alice
Larkell, Nellie
Lyle, Miss M. L.
Leslie, Jennie (late of Buffalo, N. Y.)
Leigh, Alice
Lurline,—("Water Queen")
Lawrence, Nellie
Lipscombe, Sarah
Lee, Rosa (late of Baltimore, Md.)
Lavarnie, Lizzie
Lee, Lotta
Large, Kate
Lusk, Ada S.
May, Georgie
Miaco, Mrs. Laura
Mortimer, Lu-lu
Mansfield, Annie
Montrose, Jennie
Murrey, Mrs. Geo.
Marshall, May
Morgan, Jennie (of Howard Athen.)
Moore, Elsie
McCabe, Maggie
Nolen, Mrs. L. E.
Narcross, Hallie
Nixon, Adelaide
Neilson, Miss 6c.
Neville, Hattie
Newman, Mrs. M. J.
Neoskaleta, Miss
Putnam Troupe, Katie
Pomeroy, Louise
Phillips, Adelaide
Pike, "Dollie"
Palmer, Minnie
Paynter, Grace V.
Reynolds, Victoria
Rathburne, Josie
Robertson, Blanche
Rowell, Kittie
Rainford, Alice
Sanford, "Lou"
Sharpe, "Dollie"
Somers, Alice
Sherwood, Annie
Selwyn, Blanche
Sauret, Madam
Stetson, Mrs. E. P.
Stetson, Evelyn
Stanley, Flora
Sarony, Nellie (late of Tooker's)
Slate, Mrs. "Pet"
Sidell, Clara
Smith, Fannie
Sinclair, Mrs. Harry
St. Clair, Lucy (of Aiken's Co.)
Steele, Sallie
Swiuburne, Marie 5c.
St. Maur, Lu-lu
Taylor, Emma (niece Lura Keene)
Varetta, Lu-lu (2)
Vincent, Florence
Vincent, Emilie
Western, Lucille
Wallace, Minnie (of Wallace Sist.)
Wharton, Mary
Walters, Nellie
Wallace, Bella
West, Eva
Wurm, Marie
Walters, Annie
Wyndham, Alice
Weathersby, Eliza
Young, Millie
Zephy, Millie

GENTLEMEN'S LIST.

Almonte, George
Austin, Chas. (late of Toronto, Cana.)
Armstrong, Harry
Aiken, Frank E.
Ashley, F. (of Forepaugh's Cir.)
Adams, "Den" (late of Cincinnati)
Ashley, E. (ventriloquist)
Armstrong, H. (of "Tony" Pastor's Co.)
Arizona, Chas.
Allen & Earle
Atwood, C. T. (agent)
Aiken, A. W.
Byne, Ernest
Banks, D. C.
Brown, "Ben"
Breyer, W. V.
Butler & Mackie
Bailey, Geo. F.
Brooks, E. (trombone)
Boyd, S. F. (agent)
Breen, W. L.
Blanchard, Harry
Bronson, Geo. R.
Bryant, Harry (late of Chicago)
Bisbee, Frank
Bardwell, T. H.
Bagley, Wm. (minst. or cir. "biz")
Barlow Bros.
Barker, "Tom" (of Bell & Barker)
Breyer, W. F. (2)
Burnett, "Alf"
Black, Frank
Blood, Col. J. H.
Buckley, Jno. (musician)
Belmont, Francis
Bell, "Pete" (of Queen's Cir.)
Beehm, E.
Barrett, Wm.
Barlow, M. G.
Barre, J. H.
Blanchett, Chas. E.
Blodgett, "Wash"
Blitz, Jerome 6c.
Benjamin, H. (of Heywood Bros Co.)
Brown, "Gus"
Barlow Bros.
Carlysle, G. (Japan. ladder "biz")
Cody, W. F. (2)
Collins & Hughes
Carlo, Wm.
Chase & Davis
Cummings, "Billy" (4)
Cummings, J. (late Delehanty & Cum.)
Crabtree, Mr. 17c.
Childs, J. H. (minst. "biz")
Cummings, Billy (song-and-dance)
Chipman, A. Z.
Campbell, F. G.
Carroll, W. B.
Cavanna, "Lew"
Chase, Wm.
Caywood, Chas.
Clark, J. D. (of Pavillion Cir.)
Case, Thos. 11c.
Cooke, Chas. S.
Chanfrau, F. S.
Collins, C. M.
Crowell, H.
Caseneade, Mons.
Childs, J. H.
Chapman, H. (of Oates' Opera Co.)
Christy & Fields
Clark, T. (late of Haynes' Spingfld.)
Carter, L. (of Van Amburgh's Cir.)
Cotton & Birdue
Cowan, W. H. A.
Carrillo, R. J. (2)
Clark, Philo. A.
Coleman, E. (of K. Putnam's Co.)
Coulter, Philip F.
Crossley, J. T. or J. S.
Crawford, J. W.
Cleary, "Ned" (song-and-dance)
Curtis, M. B.
Cooke, Louis E. 6c.
Coon, Chas. S. (2)
Clarke, "Lew" & Ed.
De Mott, James
Davis, C. L.
De Mott, Eugene
De Haven, Claude
Duncan, Wm. T.
Dade, "Charlie"
Diamond, Chas.
Dauberry, Chas.
Dupree, Chas. H. (2)
Delano, "Jepp"
Davis, C. L. (comed.)
Dutton, Wm.
Dixon, J. B. (minst. "biz")
Duff, J. C. (of Daly's Co.) 3c.
Danforth, H. C.
Donavin, J. W.
Durton, H. (of Murray's Cir.)
Doherty, E. (of Cole's Cir.)
Danes, H. A.
Douglas, J. B.
Davis, W. H.
Emmerson, Frank (Irish "biz")
Emerson, "Billy"
Engle, John
Emerson, P. (minst. "biz")
Everton, Henry
Eck, W. T.
Everett, Paul
Foster & Dudley
Fowler, W. W.
Fulton, John E.
Forbush, H. F.
French, Eden
French, J. M. 9c.
Flanigan, Edward
Foote, Jr., Wm.
Fox, "Willie" (comique)
Fallon, Mr.
Fawcett, Owen
Ford, J. T.
Frost & Co., Hyatt
Fyffe, C. J.
Filkins, A.
Gardner, C. ("Hop Light Loo")
Gilday & Ginnevan
Gotthold, Ellis (late of Philadel.)
Gibbons, "Ned"
Goss, "Ned" (of Goss & Fox) (2)
Gilday, C. (of Park Th., Brooklyn)
Gaston, Geo.
Guernella, — ("spiritualist")
Gilday, Chas. (song-and-dance)
Gardner, Frank A.
Giammona, Antonino
Gardner, W. H.
Gregory, J. (of Forepaugh's Cir.)
Gray, E. S.
Gray, C. (manager)
Gulick, Jos. A.
Green, J. (of European Cir.)
Gilbert, J. A.
Gavitt, C. B.
Gardner, Chas. (Dutch "biz")
Gale, Geo. T.
Gerson, Edmund
Glenn, T. R.
Genter, "Max"
Hanshaw, T. W. 6c
Hooper, Geo. W. (2)
Hennessey Bros.
Holly, James
Heinrich, F. (of Dup. & Ben. Minst.)
Homer & Holly
Hinkson, "Dan"
Hudson, H. B.
Hammond, John (2)
Hutchings, Saml. M.
Huber, Fred.
Heeney, E. (of Thomas & Heen) (2)
Higgins, Wm. B.
Heinecke, L. (musician)
Hengler, T. M. (3)
Hall, Frank A.
Howard, J. B. (actor)
Harris, Geo.
Homan, Geo. W.
Hurley & Marr
Hughes, D. H.
Healy & Bertram
Hart, J. O.
Hains, Mr. 6c.
Hill, J. W.
Himmel, Chas.
Heather, H. J.
Hayle, "Billy" (2)
Holmes, B. B.
Hawley & Victoria
Hawkins, D. R.
Height, Fred.
Husted, H. C.
Howard, Chas. L.
Hooker, Fred.
Hilliard & Hamilton
Hubbard, D. R.
Hicks, Chas. H.
Height, "Bob"
Hudson, G. B.
Hamilton, E. B.
Hicks, Chas. B.
Irving, "Phil" H. (2)
Jones, Robt. (of Sheehan & Jones)
Jones, Arnold
Jones, W.
Jee, Harry
Joyce, Thos. (musician)
Johanoff, Chas. 5c.
Jones, Harry (agent)
Jackson, Hart. (author)
Jones, H. W.
Judson, Frank
Ketchum, Geo. F.
Keen, Jule
Kinross, W. H.
Kennedy, Harry (ventriloquist)
Kirk, Geo. W.
Kent, Julian 6c.
Klebs, Joseph
Kelly, J. T. (Irish comed.)
Kimberk, Geo.
Knight, F. W.
Keeler, F. A.
Kelley & Ryan
Kirby, Wm. (comed)
Kelly, James
Kine, James
La Thorne, Mons.
Leon, Alfred
Liston, Alfred (2)
Levitt, H. 6c.
Linden, Ernest
Levitt, Mr. (of Leavitt's B. R.)
Leion, Mr.
Little, Chas.
Long, T. B.
La Rue, W. (of La Rue Family)
Lawrence, John
Leavitt, M. B. (2)
Leigh, Thos. J.
Leavitt, A. (of Rentz's Minst.)
Larache, Fred.
Lawlor, Frank
Leopold, George
Leslie, Roy (vocalist)
Landis, W. (skatist)
Lennox, George J.
Lord, C. (of L. Benedict's Minst.)
Lyons, H. P. 5c.
Loomis, Harry T.
Lennox, G. (of Haverly's Minst.)
Lawson, Mr. (Opera "biz")
Lewis, D. (late of D. Stephen's Co.)
Lyons, Geo. W.
Lowlow, John
Liston, H. (David & Leslie)
Leak, Wm. H.
Lee, J. H. (of Adams & Lee)
Levino, "Dolph"
Levino Bros.
Lee, Simcoe
Lee, H. (of Lord's Dram. Co.)
Lowden, "Jeff"
Litteen, James
McEntie, P. J.
Murrays, The
Murphy, John
Murray, J. H. (circus prop.)
Murphy & Morton
"Manager A"
McVicker, —(of McVic. & Saunders)
Menelle & Leona, Harry
Murray, E. (of the Alhamb., Vir. City)
Marsden, Fred.
McAndrews, J. W
Mortimer, J. M.
McNamrra, Wm. H.
Matthews, C. C.
Moulton & Ajax
Mowry, Nell. (2)
Morrison, Louis (manager)
Mortimer, J. K.
Mullen, E.
McCall, E. C.
Murphy, J. C.
Mack, F. H. (of E. Leland's Co.)
Montague, Harry
Markhoff, John
Moore, Jr., H. C. (leader)
McKay, A. (with Peak Family)
Mullen & Magee
Mason, "Ned"
Melville, Chas.
Morris, Wm. (of Callender's Minst.)
Matthews, Robt.
McElrath, S. B.
Moore, J. (of Daly's 5th Ave. Co.)
Mayo, "Dan"
Maschi, Stephen
Mervine, Geo.
Morgan, Wm. (equestrian)
Mackay, Murillo
Marvig, Mons.
Murphy, Jos. ("Help")
Macauley, "Barney"
Morgan, "Matt"
Maryon, Theophilus 6c.
Monroe, F. (trapezist)
Morton, C. B.
Mafiin, A. W.
Morton, C. S.
Norton, "Wash"
Nash, D. S.
Newall, U. D.
Newcombe, "Bobby"
Natalie, Sig.
Nelson, Albert 4c.
Norton, F. H.
Nixon, N.
O'Brien, "Fred"
Oglesby, R. M.
O'Lynn, Bryan
O'Reardon, "Matt" (2)
Organ, Wm.
O'Neill, Jas. (late of Cleveland, O.)
Orrin Bros.
Otto, Rohardine
Osborn, "Dave"
Omohondro, J. B.
Primrose & West
Pell & Lewis
Potter, Chas. A.
Pullman Bros.
Peakes, Jas. G.
Parr, Jr., D. P.
Pleasant, Wm.
Primrose, Geo. H.
Pillot, F. J.
Pontine, H. C.
Perah, James
Plumer, T. ("biz" manager)
Pfaff, Conrad
Pholte, Chas. E.
"Pano" (2)
Ross, Patrick
Raymond, Jno. T. (2)
Rankin, McKee
Robson, Stuart (2)
Rule, Mr.
Robinson, W. J. (musician)
Richtather, T.
Raber, J. C.
Ritter, John
Russell, M. C.
Ready, J. (agent)
Richards, Wm.
Rogers, Frank P.
Rowe, G. F.
Reynard, S. B.
Richards, O. E.
Robinson, Ed. ("bones")
Randolph, "Joe" (of London Cir.)
Ryan, "Ned" (of Howard Athen.)
Roe, H. W. (of Haverly's Minst.)
Richardson, B. (of J. Robinson's Cir.)
Rowe, H. (of Benedict's Minst.)
Ray, "Billy"
Ritchie, Fred. (Dutch "biz")
Rice, J. H. (of 5th Ave. Co.)
Stutz, J. G.
Sanford, "Will" F.
St. Orman, Harry
Sinclair, Harry (2)
Smith, Jno. (song-and-dance)
Spaulding's Bell-ringers
Simmons, L. (of Simm. & Slocum)
Seymour, "Teal"
Snow, B. (of Snow Bros.)
Sullivan, J. (of K. Putnam's Co.)
Sexton, M. C.
Spears, J. A.
Snow, A. Wilson
Simmons, "Charlie"
Sexton, Wm.
Stevens, R. E.
Stanley, W. H. (vocalist)
Stowe, "Will" H.
Seaman, Chas.
Smith, "Doc" W. H.
Smith, Prof. "Neil"
Simmons, E. (of Howe's Cir.)
Streland, W. T.
Seward, T. F. (manager)
Swonsbourne, C.
Searles & Mlle. Lawrence, Mr.
Sherman, W. (of Heywood Bros Co.)
Sothern, E. A.
Sanyeah, Saml.
Stanley, Ernest
Sully, "Dan" (Irish comed.)
Slate, Harry (3)
Scott, Rufus G. (2)
Schaffer, Chas. H.
Simmonds, Morris
Smith & Fox (2)
Sanyeahs, The
Showers, "Andy" (juggler)
Thompson, Alex.
Tawner, H. A.
Thatcher, G. (of Sim. & Sloc. Minst.)
Tudors, The (3)
Trigame, Mr. 10c.
Thumann, Heinrich
Throckmorton, H. D.
Townsend, J. (of S. Irwin's Co.)
Tryon, H. C.
Tershak, Herr 13c.
Thompson, Sid. H.
Taber, J. W.
Tilla, W. H.
Towe, B.
Taylor, Geo. A.
Tracy, John
Thorne, Chas. R.
Tyler & Maffitt's Co., Manag.
Tyler, Geo. H. 3c.
Vanderbilt, Frank
Vanderbier, Frank
Vear, G. W. (2)
Wilson, R. (of Col Wood's Museum)
Waldron, D. (of "Big 4") (2)
Whitaker, F. (with P. T. Barnum)
Walworth & Oakley
Willis, Richd. (musician)
Wiggins, T. A. (wizard)
Welling, W. H. (minst. "biz")
Whitney, Chas. (show "biz")
Washburn, E. S.
Watkins, Chas. A. (5)
Wildman, F. J.
Whiffin, Thos. (2)
Willis, Oscar
Weslyn & Casey
Weaver, Jr., "Add"
Wiggins, Prof. "Tom"
Wells, C. B.
Whallen, J. H.
Wilton, Edward
Williams, "Tom"
Wood & West
Wyman, "Alf"
Wayne, "Burt"
Williams, L. Percy
Warden, H. M. (scenic artist)
Wagner, "Cal"
Wallace, J. (Soldene's Op. Co.)
Watson, W. (of "Tony" Pastor Co.)
Wild, "Billy" (of Olympic Th., N. Y.)
Zera, Prof.

THERE WERE LETTERS in the Wheeling (W. Va.) Post-office on Dec. 15 addressed to "Joe" Murphy (4), "Gus" Moulton, and Manager of "Lew" Benedict's Minstrels.

INTRODUCTORY OVERTURE.

MONDAY, Dec. 18, '76.

The excitement created by the burning to death of three hundred persons at the conflagration of the Brooklyn Theatre, has somewhat abated, although the melancholy subject is still uppermost in the minds of the public, and the many places of amusement in this and other cities continue to feel the depressing effects of the great calamity. With characteristic generosity the profession everywhere is extending a helping hand in behalf of the surviving relatives of those who met their death by flame and smoke on the ever-to-be remembered night of Tuesday, Dec. 5, 1876. One of the earliest to contribute to the relief fund was Camilla Urso, whose concert in San Francisco realized some nine hundred dollars. In Philadelphia, Baltimore, and elsewhere benefits have been given with satisfactory results. In this city a series of benefits will be given on Thursday, Dec. 21, by the companies of our theatres, managers, police force of the city, etc., each and everyone contributing either money or services to make the combination event a grand success. In this union may there be strength......Inspectors of buildings have been making their grand rounds during the past week, examining the various theatres, churches, and other edifices where the people assemble in large numbers and the effect has been the increase of means of entrance and exit in those places that needed them. This is well. Hose and water appliances have been introduced in theatres which have been without those aids for the preservation of life and property, and a general overhauling of places of public resort is one of the results of the lamentable Brooklyn calamity. Let us hope that we may never be called upon to chronicle another disaster of the kind. When the Richmond, Va., Theatre was destroyed by fire in 1811, involving the loss of some sixty-four lives, the shock was terrible, and but little business was done there for some time afterwards, places of amusement remaining closed, and general gloom prevailing. It was but a few years ago that an old lady gave us a description of that fire, and detailed some of the painful incidents connected with it. Among these was the case of a gentleman who had taken his affianced to the theatre that evening; and when the alarm was sounded, and the panic that ensued threatened death on every hand, this gentleman, in the great confusion and rush and crush, made every effort to save the lady; he struggled bravely with his fair burden, who lay like a log in his arms, and by the most superhuman exertions he succeeded in gaining the outside, when, looking down upon the almost inanimate form he had rescued, he discovered that the lady *was not his affianced*, but another whom he had seized in the excitement of the moment! He turned back, in the hope of being able to rescue his lost love, but the whole interior of the theatre was in flames, and she was among the dead and the dying, and beyond all human aid. The man became a raving maniac, and when our informant last saw him he was in the insane department of one of the public institutions of Philadelphia, and when anyone approached his cell he would rush towards the door, anxiously scan the face of his visitor, and exclaim: "Where's the fire? Where's the fire?" That was all he said. All else had been lost, swallowed up in the conflagration. ......It is not at all likely that the Brooklyn Theatre will be rebuilt. It were better that the site remain unoccupied, save by a marble shaft to mark the spot where life and death struggled for the mastery, and death proved the conqueror!...... "The Two Orphans," we presume, will continue to hold the stage, although it can be but a melancholy interest that will attach to it. Those who witness it will see the vehicle through whose indirect agency hundreds of lives were lost; and fear and the slightest alarm will revive recollections of that terrible December night when poor Murdoch and Burroughs, representatives respectively of Pierre the cripple, and Picard the valet, made their last appearance on the stage of life. In New Orleans, recently, "The Two Orphans" was presented, and, as an additional attraction, one Lucian Marc was to perform on the trapeze, with a horse accompaniment, between acts 4 and 5; but, when the horse was to be lifted by the trapezeist, nothing would induce the animal to move, and the scene had to be omitted, and the performer lost the opportunity to *make his mark!* The "peril of it" has extended to Germany, as we notice by a foreign item that, during the performance of "The Two Orphans" in a theatre in the town of Ingoldstadt, the stage-manager, while superintending the snowfall, fell to the stage and was instantly killed......Emboldened, probably, by the publication of the poetic refrains in this department last week, the same being the head and hand work of two young men, we have received a tender billet from a gushing damsel in Chicago, with a request that we give it publicity. Chicago will never take anybody's dust. We have not space to spare for the entire poem, but we give the most touching portion of it:

ISN'T IT SO?
DEDICATED TO BOBY ——.

How soon, oh, how soon you're forgotten
The gurl you promist to love;
It was the night we got lost in Milwaukey,
You swore by the brite star above
You would fly with me to Pincolia,*
Or sum other part of the sunny South;
But, Boby, you air stil in Chicago,
And waitin' is gittin' plaid out.

I supose now my kase it is hopeless,
And I never will see you no Moore;
I am sorry you air tide to that person,
For I think her a terribol bore;
She never won't make a performer,
To sing a note she never can,
She never will maik a gig† dancer,
Never be nuthin but a Ham.

* Probably *Pensacola* is meant.
† Doubtless meaning *jig* dancer.

......Lester Wallack is going to rehearse his new play of "All for Her" this week in Boston. The profits derived from the same will be *all for him!*...... On Wednesday evening Mr. Daly is to introduce "The American" to his patrons. Isn't the manager of the Fifth-avenue Theatre taking big risks in giving such a title to a play? Here nearly everything goes down before the American. We shall await the result with deep solicitude......Shakespeare knew *everything;* and foretold everything. Now you wouldn't suppose that he foresaw this Presidential muddle, would you? But he did. He had a good many things in his mind's eye, yea, even the chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee, else why should he say:

There is a divinity that shapes our ends, rough, *Hewitt.*

......And talking about the old bard, reminds us that it was he who said something smelling just the same by any other name, alluding, probably, to the rose, Limburger cheese, etc. And so, while the political element of the country is at sword's point, as it were, a gentleman who formerly wielded a *Free Lance* in this city is going to demonstrate the fact that a *Swords'* mightier than the pen by taking charge of the Parisian Varieties, and changing its name to the "Criterion Theatre." And yet, let us remind our readers that this is "no Criterion to *go by!*"......Stars are all the rage now. You'll find them at nearly every place in the city. Why, even the aquarium has its *star-fish!*......And this reference to stars reminds us that one Edgar Rollin, tragedian, challenges any acknowledged tragedian to compete with him for the championship of the world in the impersonation of King Lear, Othello and Macbeth. Let the acknowledged ones roll in their answers before Edgar is frozen out...... May be Anna Dickinson would have made more fame and fortune had she remained on the rostrum, instead of taking stock in a stage-line; for the critics have not behaved in an amiable manner to Anna, who has already begun to realize the truth of it, that

Uneasy lies the head that wears a "Crown of Thorns."

Per contra, Anna might retort by saying that the critical head *lies* easy enough under any circumstances. Oh, how sharper than a serpent's tooth it is! ......While the people every where are quarreling such a time over Governor Chamberlain, who is only a politician, very little is said about that fourteen-year-old girl *Minnie* Chamberlain of Afton, N. Y., who from April to October, it is said, milked two thousand eight hundred and fifty-six cows! This, probably, is what gave rise to that old but beautiful ballad beginning:

"Flow gently sweet Afton."

......"We told you so." Niblo's Garden is again closed, and the "Baba" has been gathered to its four fathers. Generally, too many cooks spoil the broth, but in this case it was the other way...... Talking about giants, it is said that Farragus, slain by Orlando, the nephew of Charlemagne, was *eighteen feet high!* Gosh! Sure enough, how was *that* for high?......Shakespeare doesn't always chime in properly. "To be honest, as this world goes, is to be one man picked out of ten thousand." This is the way Babbitt the soap-man begins his advertisement. He picked out that one man, but Babbitt's hope wasn't as good as Babbitt's soap, for the picked clerk wouldn't wash, and that settled it......Wicked boys are having a good deal of unnecessary fun just now by going into places of amusement and crying "Fire!" just to see how easy it is to empty a theatre......Now, this should not be permitted. The daily papers announce with seeming unanimity of sentiment that Fanny Davenport in the character of Lady Teazle wears thirty thousand dollars' worth of diamonds! What will be the upshot of this? Why, Fanny will have to get a whole detachment of police to escort her to and from the theatre......Dr. Landis' latest venture is "Floating on the Clouds of Paradise." A short time ago he was doing Hamlet the Dane. While he is afloat, why doesn't he *take up* Edgar Rollin's challenge?......In case the relatives of the victims of the Brooklyn Theatre fire should sue for damages, who would be the defendants, the owners of the theatre or the managers?......Edwin Booth is to appear every evening this week as Cardinal Richelieu. Whenever he is applauded in this great impersonation it makes the *Cardinal red.* ......In the combined demonstration to take place at the theatres in this city on Thursday, Dec. 21, in behalf of the Brooklyn-fire sufferers, let it not be forgotten that the members of the police force are to play a very prominent part ......The tragedy of "King Lear," at Booth's Theatre *did* turn out to be "Lear the Forsaken," after all. Somehow or other, the people couldn't *bear it*......The diamonds lost in the Brooklyn Theatre have not yet been recovered, those found being only imitation. Or, *could* they have been alike?......There isn't *quite* so much talk about building new theatres. Why? ......The only circus to be seen here just now is Polo, with its narrow escapes and frightful collisions. Polo is good exercise for the horses...... Credit is due to Col. Sinn of the Olympic Theatre in this city and the Park Theatre in Brooklyn for the interest he so early took in behalf of the Brooklyn fire sufferers. He was one of the first to move in their behalf.

CITY SUMMARY.

JENNIE MORGAN, McCullough and Casey, Kirk and Drew, Kelly and Ryan, and John Gilbert were the new people at Tony Pastor's Theatre Dec. 11. Miss Morgan, who returned after a brief absence, has entirely recovered from her recent indisposition, and her voice has regained its wonted purity of tone. She sang three fresh ballads in a highly commendable manner. McCullough and Casey danced a double Lancashire clog in a very agile manner, and introduced a great variety of difficult steps, winning much deserved applause. Kirk and Drew are clever exponents of song-and-dance, and in response to a recall they gave some burlesque acrobatic feats which were so well performed that we strongly suspect that they must have hitherto had considerable practical experience as acrobats. Kelly and Ryan gave Irish musical sketches with rapid changes of costume and facial make-up. These included "Mr. and Mrs. Malone," "Pat and Judy" and "The Hod-carriers," in all of which they were unusually successful. Besides these, Little Leonora St. Felix sang songs with changes of costume, meeting with fair success; the Wilkinson Brothers repeated the most popular of their Irish songs-and-dances; Harris and Carroll were seen in an act called "Black and White," which was indicative of the color of the characters alternately assumed by them; Tony Pastor kept the audience well amused by singing in his peculiarly happy style the freshest ditties of his repertory, and cheerfully responded to numerous encores. While on the stage Tony apparently has an abundance of good spirits, which prove infectious to the audience. William Courtright repeated his funny act of "Flewy, Flewy," and subsequently delivered a humorous burlesque stump-speech; the four St. Felix Sisters gave a number of songs-and-dances, which pleased; and the sketches of "Private Boarding," "Razor-mania" and "Palmy Days in Dixie" filled out the bill and introduced Eph Horn, C. Worley, Frank Girard, John Gilbert, Sadie Deshon and Jennie Satterlee. Business fair.

"BABA" was not performed at Niblo's Garden Dec. 11, as announced, for the benefit of the Brooklyn sufferers. The theatre was opened and all of the performers were in attendance, but the public did not respond to the call for their aid in the cause of charity. The attendance was so meagre that it was decided to refund the money to purchasers of tickets and close the theatre.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.—The B. P. O. Elks, at a regular communication of the Grand Lodge held in Masonic Hall on the afternoon of Dec. 10, elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Frank Girard, G. E. R.; Charles Jones, E. L. G. K.; Alfred Stimmel, E. L. G. K.; Cool White, G. L.; William Coffin, G. Secretary; Charles T. White, G. Treasurer; and H. O'Neil, G. Tyler.

AT THE COLUMBIA OPERA-HOUSE the past week the company included Nellie Harris, the Harrison Sisters, Fanny Monzert, the German Brothers, Belle Berry, Howard and Sanford, Josephine Walby, Eva Dobson, Mons. Ventini, Lottie La Point, Mlle. Zulelie, Marie Connolly and J. Stansill. On Dec. 18 Libby Howard is to appear.

MRS. H. P. GRATTAN.—This lady, who had been an actress for half a century, who had supported Edmund Kean in England after his second visit to America, who in this country had ably seconded Junius Brutus Booth the elder, William Macready, John R. Scott, A. A. Addams, Thomas S. Hamblin and Edwin Forrest, and who in other ways had done first-class work on the American stage for forty years, died in this city on Thursday, Dec. 14, and was buried on the ensuing Sabbath. To write even briefly of her career is necessarily to sketch in part the history of the drama in America since the days when Mazeppa, now played only by females, was impersonated only by such males as the senior Charles R. Thorne; when Romeo, Hamlet, Richard III and Rolla were often done by women; and when, indeed, the leading theatres of this continent witnessed the edifying spectacle of a lady playing Virginius (not Virginia) throughout five acts of the tragedy, and afterwards executing a *pas seul*. "Society plays" were then unknown, the sensations being such dramas or spectacles as "Hell Upon Earth," "Six Degrees of Crime," "Surgeon of Paris," "Lafitte the Pirate," and "The Monks of Monk Hall," the last-mentioned having, by the way, been prohibited in Philadelphia, and thus reserved for the Chatham, this city. The maiden name of Mrs. Grattan was McPhain, and she was born in London, Eng., a trifle over sixty-six years ago. Her first stage appearance was *en amateur*, her debut being as Helen in "The Iron Chest," to the Mortimer of the late W. Humphrey Bland. After several years passed in London and in the provinces, she crossed the Atlantic with her husband, making her American debut at the St. Charles Theatre, New Orleans, as Lady Anne in "Richard III," in 1836. She played in New Orleans, Mobile, Galveston, and other Southern cities for three years, and in the Summer of 1839 made her metropolitan debut at the Olympic Theatre, supporting G. G. Adams the Mormon elder. She was then Mrs. Barker, widow, having buried her husband at the South. It was while she was at the Olympic that W. G. Jones, the sailor-actor whose widow is still a favorite in this city, made his metropolitan debut. Both appeared on Sept. 27, 1839, for the benefit of the sufferers by the burning of the late J. W. Wallack's Church-street (National) Theatre, Jones playing Sir Thomas Clifford, while Mrs. Barker represented Julia in "The Hunchback" and Myrtillo in "The Broken Sword." Her next engagement was at the New Chatham Theatre, as it was called, the season beginning Sept. 7, 1840. Meanwhile she had become Mrs. Madison. At this house, on Nov. 16, 1840, she was the original in this city of Madelon in the immensely popular "Carpenter of Rouen," the Marteau being the late J. Hudson Kirby, famous for his death-scenes, and who then, as a star, first appeared at the Chatham. Her first appearance in Philadelphia was made at the Arch-street Theatre in September of 1842, when it was opened by T. B. Russell, an Englishman of splendid audacity with respect to salaries. Contrary to general expectation, Russell's venture at the Arch was a financial success, and yet he would not permit "the Ghost to walk." The most useful member of the company was Mrs. Madison, available for comedy or tragedy, and serviceable as a vocalist—comely of feature, of commanding appearance, and then in the plenitude of that supervitalized physique which enabled her to continue upon the stage for nearly a quarter of a century after the period of life at which the average actress in America withdraws from it. Despairing otherwise of getting her salary from Russell, she sought him at the Western Hotel, in Market street. Causing him to be called to the main door, she gently pleaded her necessities, and temperately recounted his unsubstantial pledges in the sacred name of the Ghost. She was lady-like and affable, but he simulated indignation, finally becoming positively rude: "Madame, you are impertinent, insolent! You annoy me. I am not in the vein." But this spirited and thorough woman was. Drawing a cowhide, with which she had fortified herself in anticipation of another postponement of salary-day, she plied it with a vigor that but few of her sex could hope to emulate. Russell fled, but subsequently had her brought before an Alderman, whose sympathy found practical expression in permitting her to depart upon her own recognizances. She returned to New York, opening at the Chatham as Mrs. Fitzsmith in "The Ladies' Club" on April 3, 1843, on the same night that Marston's play of "The Patrician's Daughter," with Edwin Forrest as Mordaunt and Josephine Clifton as Lady Mabel, was first seen in New York. At the close of that season she went again to Philadelphia, beginning as Juliana in "The Honeymoon" and Kate O'Brien in "Perfection" on Sept. 23, 1843, at the Olympic Theatre. This was the opening of the old National under a new name, the proprietors being F. C. Wemyss and John Oxley. As the receipts were but $66, Mrs. Madison withdrew and went South. Later, we think, she was for a brief period at the Bowery Amphitheatre, this city, when C. R. Thorne was dramatic director there, and in that same year (1844) went with him and others on that notable trip to Rio Janeiro. As Ellen in "The Sleeping Beauty" and Lady Clara in "Charles II," she reappeared in this city on August 4, 1845, when the late A. W. Jackson opened the rebuilt Bowery Theatre, the fifth on the site it still occupies. Here she played Old Nanny in "The Wizard Skiff," Rose Kynan in "The Yew-tree Ruins," Mrs. Lennox in the late Charles M. Walcot's dramatization of the Hon. Theodore S. Fay's "Hoboken," Goody Prawl in Cornelius Matthews' tragedy of "Witchcraft, or the Martyrs of Salem," and Loopwinge in the same author's "Jacob Leisler, or New York in 1690," respectively first produced in this city on Jan 19, July 20, and Aug. 3, 1846, May 17, 1847, and May 8, 1848. During the season of 1849-50, she was at the Chatham under Frank Chanfrau's management, being still Mrs. Madison to the public. The late A. H. Purdy assumed control of that establishment on July 8, 1850, on which date, as Amelia in "Wild Oats," she was billed as Mrs. Grattan, a name she ever afterwards retained, though the union that conferred it was not a protracted one. Henry Plunkett Grattan, who was her third husband, is now in England. During the season of 1852-3 Mrs. Grattan was doing leading business at the Bowery Theatre, and thence she went to Forbes' Theatre, Providence, withdrawing from there in October, 1854, to fill the vacancy at the Boston Theatre caused by the secession of Mrs. J. Hudson Kirby. On Nov. 18, 1856, when the late Laura Keene opened her New Theatre with "As You Like It," she played Audrey, and later appeared as Mrs. Tenpercent in the deceased E. G. P. Wilkins' new comedy of "Young New York," as Dame Hathorn in the original production of "Rachel the Reaper" (memorable for Charles Wheatleigh's Corporal Patrick), and as Dame Aspen in Palgrave Simpson's "Black Book," in which, as Peter Zitterschankel, the late Fred Kent made his first appearance at that house, which was almost his last anywhere. During the season of 1858-9, at Wallack's, she was the original Mrs. Vavasour in Edmund Falconer's "Men of the Day;" at Niblo's Garden, in 1861-2, she was especially engaged to support the late J. H. Hackett, and was a notable Dame Quickly; on Feb. 25, 1862, she was specially engaged at the Winter Garden when the late Charles M. Walcot began playing Uncle Tom, she appearing as Cassy, the role which the deceased Mrs. N. H. Bannister had vitalized at the Chatham in 1853; at Laura Keene's, in June, 1862, when Maggie Mitchell first produced "Fanchon" in this city, Mrs. Grattan was Mother Barbeaud; at Niblo's Garden she was singled out for Sarah when, on Jan. 19, 1863, Kate Bateman transplanted Aug. Daly's "Leah the Forsaken" from the Howard Athenæum, Boston, to this city; she was of the company with which Miss Emily Thorne (not the American actress of that name) and the late Mark Smith joined hands in opening the Winter Garden in the Summer of 1863; and at Niblo's she played Martha when, on Sept. 28, 1863, Vestvali the Magnificent ventured into the domain of English drama in "Gamea, or the Jewish Mother," and there also, on Jan. 11, 1864, she was the original Mrs. O'Gorman in Charles Gayler's "Connie Soogah;" afterwards she was with the late William Wheatley's traveling company; on April 30, 1866, she returned to the Winter Garden, and thence she went to Philadelphia, being of the company opening the new City Museum, Oct. 27, 1866. After this season she began to rest from her labors. Much of her subsequent life was passed in retirement, though she never renounced the stage. She was at Booth's Theatre during the season of 1874-5, which was probably her last in this city. Her final engagement of all was at the Arch-street, Philadelphia, where, on Sept. 18, 1876, she took the place of Mrs. Alexina Fisher Baker in "Led Astray." Doubtless this recapitulation of the lady's chief labors has omitted some few things of an importance equal to any that has been mentioned. But it has been both a delicate and a difficult matter to follow her closely without falling into error; for during the period between 1856 and 1865 there were no fewer than five Grattan-Plunketts or Plunkett-Grattans on the metropolitan stage. Of these, only one was a male; the initial letter of the first name of two of the ladies did not differ; and often there was no initial letter as a guide. The funeral services were held at the family residence, 101 West Twenty-ninth street, the Rev. Dr. Houghton of "The Little Church Around the Corner" officiating. Among those representing the theatrical profession were Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Harkins, Mr. and Mrs. Sol Smith, Mrs. Louisa Eldridge, Mrs. W. H. Reeves, Mrs. John R Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Parsloe, Mrs. T. J. Hind, Harry Watkins and daughter, Miss Bijou Heron and James W. Collier. Among the floral tributes were bouquets from Matilda and Bijou Heron; a pillar with the words "All's Well," from J. W. Collier; a wreath from Mrs. Showler, daughter of the deceased; a pillar inscribed "Mother," from Mr. and Mrs. George K. Fortesque, son-in-law and daughter; and a cross composed of rosebuds and lilies-of-the-valley. The services were begun at ten o'clock in the morning, and the interment was in Cypress Hills Cemetery.

EDWIN BOOTH has not done the large business that was anticipated at the Lyceum Theatre. This has not been due, however, to any falling-off in the tragedian's artistic or physical powers, but to a combination of circumstances over which he had no control. There is a stagnation in all kinds of business, owing to the uncertainty regarding the Presidential election, and, coupled with these, the recent Brooklyn calamity has fallen like a pall upon the public, and all patrons of theatres suffer more or less trepidation about attending places of public amusement. During the expired week the attendance fluctuated from good to somewhat indifferent. "Othello" was acted Dec. 11, 12, 15, and matinee 16, with Edwin Booth as Othello and Frederick Robinson as Iago 11, 15, and with the cast reversed 12 and matinee 16. "The Merchant of Venice" was given 13, 14, 16.

AN ENTERTAINING PROGRAMME was presented last week at the Theatre Comique which attracted good-sized audiences, considering the depression of the times. The newcomers included Christine Percy, a fair vocalist, and William and Laura Devere, who were seen in a "shadow-clog," which elicited applause, and subsequently William Devere performed songs-and-dances quite satisfactorily. Besides these, Harrigan and Hart were seen in their original sketch of "Patrick's-day Parade," which was received with fully as much favor as when it was originally produced upon the same stage. Later they were seen in a funny act called "The Coroner's Inquest," in which they were aided by the principal members of the company. John Hart and A. C. Moreland provoked much laughter by their excellent performances in the sketches entitled "Wanted, A Nurse," and "The Court of Appeals." John Queen gave his specialties; Billy Carter his mirth-provoking banjo-songs and witticisms; Larry Tooley, Lizzie Edwards and others acted in the sketch of "The Dutch Shoemaker;" and Billy Barry, G. W. H. Griffin and Hannah Birch performed a condensed version of "The Widow's Victim," under the title of "War's Dat Gal?"

JOHN HOGAN, Rosa Lee, Robert Nickle and Harry Little were the fresh arrivals at the Olympic Theatre Dec. 11. John Hogan was quite successful in songs-and-dances; Rosa Lee's vocalisms were deservedly applauded; Robert Nickle performed a number of feats of magic quite deftly, which afforded the audience much amusement; Harry Little acted Toby Tramp in the closing farce called "Another Mummy." Mr. Little, who is quite young, and has been before the public but a short time, evinces the possession of considerable comic ability, which only requires careful training and close study to develop. The programme also included character songs by William Scanlon, juggling feats by the Langlois Brothers, John and Maggie Fielding in their musical act called "Irish Domestics," banjo-songs and witticisms by Sam Devere; "The Rival Apple-venders" by Scanlon and Cronin; the Big Four in songs-and-dances; and the sketch entitled "The Modern Esculapius." Business fair.

"KING LEAR" continued the attraction at Booth's Theatre until Saturday night, Dec. 16, but it attracted little public attention. Owing to the withdrawal of E. L. Davenport from the theatre after the performances of Dec. 9, the following changes were made in the cast: F. B. Warde acted Edgar; E. K. Collier, Edmund; L. F. Barrett, Duke of Cornwall; Frank Roberts, King of France; and Vincent Rogers, the Herald. Frederick B. Warde was overweighted by the character of Edgar, and labored under great disadvantage by the reason of his impersonation being compared with that of E. L. Davenport. Still, there was much to commend in Mr. Warde's portrayal of that difficult role. The other changes were satisfactory. "Richard III" was acted Saturday night. Mr. Barrett's performance of Gloster was hardly satisfactory, being hard and destitute of that intensity of feeling which makes the actor forget himself and merge his identity into that of the character assumed. The numerous costumes which he wore were rich, but many of them were incorrect, having been made for Henry V when he performed that character in San Francisco, Cal. W. E. Sheridan acted Buckingham so well, that he was called before the curtain; Mrs. M. A. Farren made an excellent Duchess of York; and the rest of the cast, as a whole, was quite satisfactory.

AT THE PARISIAN VARIETIES, the programme last week included songs by Jessie Fox, Minnie Hall, and Emily Prior; feats on the horizontal bar by Signor Erni and Francis Melrose, one-legged gymnasts, and later Erni gave feats on flying rings, and Melrose on a trapeze. Charley Fox gave German songs and witticisms, and subsequently with Jessie Fox was seen in Dutch sketches; Samuel and Maud Sanyeah gave globe-performances, and Maud introduced feats of juggling while poised on a revolving globe: songs-and-dances by Brevarde and Sawtelle; a statue clog-dance by Tommy Devere and Johnny Russell; tableaux vivants and the sketches of "Scenes at Solari's" and "Vassar Outdone." This theatre will henceforth be known as the Criterion, and the management has changed hands.

THE CHANGES in the programme given by the San Francisco Minstrels since our last report have included "Down by the Sea," sung by H. W. Frillman; "Darky's Jubilee," by Charley Backus; "Eileen Allana," by D. S. Wambold; "The Menagerie," by Billy Birch; and "The Mariner's Daughter," by W. H. Hamilton, in the first-part; "Oh, You Stop," and other songs-and-dances by Johnson and Powers; "Beware" and other songs by the female impersonator Ricardo; and "The Two Boys of Sandy Hook," in the olio. Business continues apparently satisfactory.

LETTIE ALLEN and J. B. Atwater closed their engagements at the Grand Opera-house Dec. 16, and on that date "The Crabbed Age" was withdrawn. Miss Allen may feel proud of the success that she achieved, considering the numerous difficulties she had to contend against, and we trust that she may have an opportunity to again appear before metropolitan audiences and under more favorable circumstances. "The Black Crook" is to be revived here Dec. 18.

"MUSETTE" was withdrawn from the stage of the Park Theatre after the evening performance of Dec. 16. Although the attendance was not large at any time during its run, it was constantly increasing, thereby attesting to Lotta's popularity. This week "Little Nell and the Marchioness" is to be revived, and the company will be materially strengthened by the addition of several well-known actors, especially selected to fit the various characters for which they are cast.

AT THE LONDON, under the management of Harry Miner, the business done thus far has been quite satisfactory. Among the features presented last week were Hawley and Victoria, gymnasts; Frank Bush, German vocalist; Erba Robeson, vocalist; Mulligan and Morris, clog and jig dancers; and Little Josie, serio-comic. This week the company will be reinforced by the four St. Felix Sisters, Fred Aymar, and William and Nellie Leonard, Kirk and Drew, Charles Arizona, the Leopold Brothers, and Lizzie Estelle.

THE AMARANTH CLUB (amateur) of Brooklyn, L. I., performed "Man and Wife" in the Fifth-avenue Theatre Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 13, for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the Cuban war.

THE AVERAGE ATTENDANCE at the Fifth-avenue Theatre has continued fair, and "The School for Scandal" will be the attraction until Wednesday, Dec. 20, when "The American" is announced to receive its first production on the American stage.

THE PROGRAMME of magical illusions, music, and the second-sight mystery, which has been given in Heller's Wonder Theatre by Robert and Miss Heller since the reopening of that house, will be given this week for the last times. Business is steadily on the increase.

THE NEW BROADWAY THEATRE is to be opened Saturday night, Dec. 23, for the season. A new play entitled "Corinna" is to be acted for the first time.

A STORM of snow and hail set in at an early hour on Monday, Dec. 18, the snow continuing to fall up to the time THE CLIPPER went to press. This will give the theatres another black eye.

THE EGYPTIAN HALL is the name by which the Thirty-fourth-street Theatre will hereafter be known, and it is to be reopened Saturday night, Dec. 23, with the following company: Prof. H. J. Campbell, Joseph Armstrong, Prof. Hughes, H. Greacen, George Arlington, Joseph Masey, Orvella Pearl, Alice Placide, Ada Freeman, Kittie Lavard, Lillie Raymond, Bella Winters, Carrie Gardiner, Miss Phillips, Eva Thorn, Josie Williard, Mattie Scott, Alice Norris, Kittie Jordan, Nellie Jackson, Eva Monroe, Kate Wilson and the Parks Sisters.

AT THE BOWERY THEATRE Dominick Murray acted last week in "Innocent," which was preceded by "My Neighbor's Wife," and it was given until Thursday. At the matinee on that day Oliver Doud Byron and Kate Byron, supported by the regular stock-company, acted in "Across the Continent;" Hyland and Daly gave Irish songs-and-dances; E. T. Stetson and Polly Booth acted the principal characters in "A Glance at New York," and Dominick Murray acted the title-role in "Mickey Free." At the night performances, Mr. Murray was seen in "Innocent," Major Thomas McKeever and his Eighth-regiment Drum Corps performed, and E. T. Stetson and Polly Booth acted the chief characters in "Neck and Neck." Both of these performances were for the benefit of the sufferers by the Brooklyn fire. "Innocent" and "Escaped from Sing Sing" were performed Friday and Saturday. This week Oliver Doud Byron is the star.

ROBERT MCWADE is in town.

NO CHANGE was made in the programme at Kelly & Leon's Minstrels since our last report. Business has continued good for the times. "Galatea, the Black Sculptor," continued one of the chief feature. The specialties of Leon, the vocalisms of Edwin Kelly, and the comicalities of the comedians kept the spectators in the best of spirits. William Courtright is to be added to the company this week.

"THE BLACK CROOK" is to be revived at the Grand Opera-house Dec. 18. The principal dancers will be Mlle. Morlacchi, Cora Adriana, Antonine and Malvino. The dramatic company will include Mark Bates, E. J. Mack, L. Harrison, Shirley France, Hudson Liston, J. C. Franklin, George Morris, H. Victor, J. F. Carr, H. D. Fisher, H. D. Emon, the Misses Phosa McAllister, G. Howard, Lulu Jordan, Therese Wood, and Ida Lee. Among the specialty artists will be the Sawyer Family, bellringers; Kynock and Smith, skaters; and Crossley and Elder in field sports. The scenery, properties and appointments will be new.

LOTTA is to act this week at the Park Theatre in "Little Nell and the Marchioness." The company will be reinforced by W. H. Crane, Harold Forsberg, Helen Deland, Mme. Michels and others, and in the fair scene Runnells, Murray and Clifford will give acrobatic feats. There will also be a band of negro minstrels, and Lotta will be seen in a clog-dance.

A UNION BENEFIT for the Brooklyn sufferers is to be given Thursday afternoon, Dec. 31. Performances will be given at Wallack's, Booth's, Eagle, Park, Union-square and Olympic Theatres, the Grand Opera-house, Kelly & Leon's Minstrels and Gilmore's Concert Garden.

THE NATIONAL BALLET TROUPE, led by Bettie Remmelsburg, and under the direction of Louis Marrig; Clifton and Forepaugh; Charles Harris and Lottie Gray, and Lottie Brown are the reinforcements this week at the Olympic Theatre.

DELEHANTY AND HENGLER, who will make their first appearance together in this city since their separation; Cheevers and Kennedy, Neil Burgess, Harry Thorne, Mattie and Alice Stewart, J. H. Jefferies and Alice Ashton are the fresh people at Tony Pastor's Theatre this week.

FRANK LEWIS, W. H. Bray, Stewart Dare, George A. Hall, and Alice Bennett are the new arrivals at the Theatre Comique Dec. 18.

EDWIN BOOTH is to act Richelieu at all of the night performances at the Lyceum Theatre this week, and Benedick at the Saturday matinee.

BOOTH'S THEATRE will be closed this week, save on Thursday afternoon. "Dan'l Druce" is to be produced at the matinee Dec. 25.

THE VOLKS' GARDEN offers an attractive programme for the present week.

MUSICAL NOTES.—An entertainment in aid of the sufferers from the Brooklyn-Theatre fire was given at Steinway Hall on Monday evening, Dec. 11, by a number of juvenile artists, who appeared in a programme of music and readings, the Young Apollo Club assisting......Mlle. Therese Jakonbovitsch, a young Russian pianist, made her formal debut at Chickering Hall on Dec. 12. The young lady has already been heard at several concerts during the season, and her qualities as a pianist have not scored for her either a financial or artistic success. She was assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Feininger......Miss S. E. Miles, a colored songstress, possessed of a soprano voice which displays cultivation and expressiveness, gave a concert at Steinway Hall on Dec. 13 .....The English Glee Club, comprising Miss Henrietta Beebe, soprano; Louise Finch, mezzo-soprano; Mrs. Anna Bulkley Hills, contralto; Geo. Ellard and J. R. Nilsen, tenors; W. C. Baird, baritone; and G. E. Aiken, bass, with C. Florio, accompanist, presented an entertainment comprising selections from the English glee composers, at their concert at Chickering Hall on Dec. 14. ......A vocal and instrumental concert, given by Edward Weber at Chickering Hall on Dec. 13, included the professional artists Messrs. Bersin, Brandt, Bergner, Eller and Francke, and several pupils of Mr. Weber......Reinhard Schmelz's second symphony concert took place at Steinway Hall on Dec 14. The introduction to "Das Rheingold" and the first scene from that work, the principal feature of the programme, which have only been given in part heretofore in this city, were rendered with the aid of the vocalists Mme. Pauline Bredelli, Miss Antonia Henne, Miss E. Urcho, Mr. P. H. Persin and Mr. A. Sohst. M. Emile Guion, pianist, performed a concerto by Rubenstein, and Schubert's Rosamunde was given by an orchestra comprising some of the best musical material in the city...... The Sunday-evening concerts presented the Munich Sextet Club at Steinway Hall; the Arion Society at their Club House, Mrs. Imogene Brown and Mr. Bischoff being among the performers; Ad. Neuendorff's orchestra and Dr. Gustave Satter, pianist, at Germania Theatre; and Downing's Band and Mme. Salvotti, soprano; Master Montgomery, boy soprano; F. W. Jameson, tenor; Frank Gilder, pianist; John Hammond, cornet-soloist; C. Schaeffer, flutist; R. Loescher, French-horn player; and J. M. Morelli, clarionettist, at the Grand Opera-house. ....Mme. Salvotti, Miss A. Munier, H. A. Bischoff, A. Sonst, A. H. Pease, Mr. Arbuckle, Mr. Colby, and J. E. Tomlinson have volunteered their services in aid of the Brooklyn sufferers, and are to appear tonight (Dec. 18) at Steinway Hall, which has been tendered by Messrs. Steinway......Camilla Urso has generously donated the proceeds of her first concert in San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 12, to the Brooklyn Relief Fund, dispatching the amount ($900) by telegraph to the New York Committee.

DRAMATIC.

Managers, Agents, Doorkeepers, and Others

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THE CLIPPER ALMANAC FOR 1877.—We have extended the time for receiving advertisements to December 27, and such of our patrons as desire to have their cards appear in THE ALMANAC will please send in their favors not later than that date. Rates and further particulars can be found in our advertising department.

MRS. BOWERS played during the week ending Dec. 9, at Bidwell's Academy of Music, New Orleans, La., appearing in "Marti," "The Hunchback," "Lady Audley's Secret," and "Elizabeth" Dec. 11. On Sunday, 10, "The Two Orphans" was reproduced by the Academy's company to a somewhat larger attendance. Extra announcement was made that between the fourth and fifth acts of the play a Mons. Lucien Marc would perform the extraordinary feat of lifting, while suspended by his feet from a trapeze, a horse and rider weighing 1,200lb. Mons. Marc was there, the trapeze was there, the rider was there, and the horse was there, but it appears that the latter had not been consulted in the arrangement, and he stubbornly refused to be lifted, and after several efforts the feat announced was abandoned. Mrs. Bowers' engagement will close 17, and she is to be followed by Furbish's Dramatic Organization. The regular company will then leave for a three weeks' trip, commencing in Mobile. It affords your correspondent great pleasure to state that David Bidwell, proprietor of the Academy, has greatly improved in health......E. A. Sothern terminated a successful fortnight's engagement at the Varieties Theatre with the evening performance of Dec. 10, and on the 11th Miss Mary Anderson, who, shortly after her debut, about one year ago, received so marked an ovation at the Varieties Theatre, returned to the scene of that triumph, appearing in "Evadne." She will play for two weeks......Arrangements are in progress for a benefit to be given soon at one of our theatres for the sufferers by the burning of the Brooklyn Theatre. The bill will embrace volunteers from the companies of the various theatres here. Advices of Dec. 12.

JOHN E. OWENS was the star at the Rochester, N. Y., Opera-house, during the week ending Dec. 9. "The Victims" and "Solon Shingle" were given 4, 5, "Everybody's Friend" 6, and announced for 7; but when the extent of the Brooklyn calamity became known, and that two well-known members of the profession had perished, Mr. Owens and Manager Hall decided to close the theatre that night. "Our Boys" was produced 8, and ran the rest of the week. Correspondence delayed by the snow-storm.

IN TORONTO, Ont., during the week ending Dec. 9, G. C. Boniface was the star at the Royal Opera-house, and the Beauclerc Sisters played in Mrs. Morrison's Opera-house.

LINDLAY MURRAY, infant child of J. M. and Mrs. Edith Murray, died in Jackson, Mich., of scarlet fever, Dec. 8, at the age of 2 years and 7 days. Mr. and Mrs. Murray were playing there with Mollie Williams' company for a brief season.

W. F. CODY, popularly known as "Buffalo Bill," is on a tour of the country with his own company, performing in a new drama entitled "The Red Right Hand," which is founded upon incidents that occurred during the late Indian war. One of the scenes shows the scalping of Yellow Hand by Buffalo Bill. Mr. Cody is said to carry with him the trophies captured from that Cheyenne chief—his scalp, shield, gun, pistol, bridle, etc., which are placed on free exhibition during the day in each town or city where they perform.

J. F. BREYER'S DRAMATIC COMPANY opened a season in Dallas City, Ill., Dec. 9, and will play the week commencing 18 in Nauvoo.

THE BUFFALO BILL COMBINATION is now on its fifth annual tour, starring with the new drama by Col. Prentiss Ingraham, entitled "The Red Right Hand, or Buffalo Bill's First Scalp for Custer," in which W. F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) and J. W. Crawford (Captain Jack of the Plains) appear, supported by J. V. Arlington, Chas. B. Waite, Thos. Z. Graham, Harry Moreland, Harry Melmer, W. S. MacEvoy, Harry Irving, Thos. R. Bruce, Chas. Armsbie, A. R. Gray, J. R. Younger, Fred Williams, Miss Fanny Herring, Laura Fay and Pearl Lucille. W. F. Cody is manager and proprietor, with C. E. Blanchett as business-manager; C. B. Waite, stage-manager; J. E. Ogden, general agent; J. H. Harvey, programme agent; and A. H. Meyering, leader of orchestra.

E. A. SOTHERN plays at Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 18, 19, Evansville 20, 21, Indianapolis, Ind., 22, 23.

FROM CINCINNATI, O., our correspondent reports as appended, on Dec. 15: "At Wood's Theatre, Mrs. Chanfrau, supported by her own traveling company, has given 'Parted' all the week to a medium business. Mrs. Chanfrau's impersonation of Grace Shirley evidenced a nice reader and graceful actress, lacking only, perhaps, in the more intensified passages. The excellent support of the company showed the advantage of constant practice. Isadora Cameron and Frank Mordaunt were noticeably good in their impersonations. Mrs. Chanfrau's Combination close to-morrow. Billy Pastor and troupe open 18. Nick Roberts' Pantomime Company commences 25......Rose Eytinge opened at the Grand Opera-house 11 in 'Katharine,' an adaptation of May Agnes Fleming's novel 'A Wonderful Woman.' The play failed to make a hit, though not devoid of merit. On Thursday 'The Hunchback' was substituted, and 'Rose Michel' the rest of the week. The stock company performed 'The Marble Heart' for the usual Wednesday matinee. Miss Eytinge will remain another week, putting on 'The Geneva Cross.' The entire receipts of the performance 18 are to be for the benefit of the sufferers by the Brookly fire."

SIMON'S COMEDY COMPANY, which has been on the road during the past twenty-eight months without closing a single night save on Sundays, performed in Kansas City, Mo., the past week. The company is composed of J. A. and Annie Simon (stellar attractions), supported by Edwin Stuart (stage-manager and leading man), E. M. Taylor, H. A. Ross, George Gardner, L. G. Neal, J. H. Barron, L. M. Oswald, E. S. Carbro, Miss Kittie Lougee, Miss Annie Layton, Miss Ella Dean, Miss Josie Gray, and accompanied by Prof. Ritter's celebrated brass band. Prof. W. C. Wallace leader of orchestra. Mrs. Edwin Stuart (*nee* Cecilia Crisp) joined the company last week.

A YOUNG MAN desires to form an engagement for the purpose of learning the dramatic business. See M. S. Brundage's card.

THERE WERE VERY MANY CHANGES in the cast of "The Two Orphans" whilst that play was running at the Philadelphia Museum, where it had 141 representations. McKee Rankin, J. J. London and A. H. Hastings each appeared as Jaques; S. W. Piercy, Wm. Davidge Jr. and E. R. Dalton were witnessed as Pierre; Miss Kitty Blanchard, Rose Goodall, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. C. Rogers, Mrs. Lizzie Creese, and Miss Jennie Porter each appeared in Henriette; and the Misses Katie Wilson and C. Petrea were seen in the role of Louise.

"AZURINE" continues to be a source of much attraction at the Kiralfys' Broad street Theatre, Philadelphia, and it will not be withdrawn, as announced, but repeated until further notice, the ballet-corps being strengthened on the 18th inst. by the reappearance of Mlle. De Rosa, a great terpsichorean favorite in that city. The admirable scenery and clever acting afforded much delight to large audiences last week.

STARS AND COMBINATIONS having dates at the Rochester (N. Y.) Opera-house are requested to communicate with Manager Lempert, as per card.

MISS LIZZIE WALTON, daughter of Judge Walton of Auburn, Me., it is said, will shortly become a member of the company at the Arch-street Theatre, Philadelphia.

AT THE ARCH-STREET THEATRE, Philadelphia, on the 11th inst., "Forbidden Fruit" was produced for the first time in that city. The Emily Soldene Opera Troupe follow, opening Dec. 25 for two weeks.

JOHN F. RYAN & CO. advertise that they have for sale manuscript copies of the latest dramatic sensations.

THE ANNUAL INSPECTION of the public halls and places of amusement in Philadelphia was begun on the 11th inst. by Building-inspectors James M. Zimmerman, Joseph M. Hancock, and Robert N. Bowers, and assumes a new and peculiar interest at this time while the horrors of the burning of Brooklyn's theatre are still fresh in the public mind. The Building-inspectors are of the opinion that the Legislature should pass an act requiring every place of amusement to build a brick fire-wall, so as to separate the auditorium from the stage in time of fire; to store all scenery not used for the night's performance in a separate and fire-proof building; and to build all stairways in brick walls.

CHAPMAN'S FIFTH-AVENUE THEATRE COMPANY performed in Augusta, Me., Dec. 13, 14, Gardiner 15, 16, and is billed in Portland 18, Lynn, Mass., 19, 20, Salem 21, 22, Fall River 23, 25.

THE BUFFALO BILL COMBINATION performed at Bridgeport, Ct., Dec. 14, to an overflowing house in their new drama "The Red Right Hand." The piece abounds in exciting situations, and Fanny Herring, Capt. Jack Crawford, Buffalo Bill, and T. A. Graham were seen to advantage in their several characters. Route: Meriden, Ct., 18, Newport, R. I., 19, Fall River, Mass., 20, Providence, R. I., 21, Taunton, Mass., 22, New Bedford 23, Haverhill 25, Lynn 26.

THE C. W. BOWSER COMPANY were to have appeared in Canton, O., Dec. 11, 12, but failed to come to time, as the company closed the season in Sharon, Pa., the week previous.

AT FANNY MARSH'S THEATRE, Portland, Me., "The Two Orphans" attracted good houses the past week, and was fairly acted. Fanny Marsh gave a good rendition of Henriette, and Belle Bailey was excellent as Louise. Charles Theodore's Pierre was an excellent characterization, and the more creditable because of its being quite out of his line. The performance has suffered greatly by comparison with that given at this house last season. "Paul Pry" and a farce are up for 16. Next (this) week "After Dark."......Walter A. Donaldson, C. R. Leonard, and B. W. Reed, assisted by amateurs, gave a performance 16, at, G. A. R., for the benefit of Post Bosworth......The North Carolina Jubilee Singers, under management of C. R. Percival, are to give a sacred concert Dec. 17 .....Chapman's Fifth-avenue Company present "Divorce" at Music Hall Dec. 18. ......Wm. Calder and dramatic company appear in Mechanics Falls, Me., Dec. 18, 19, Norway 20, 21, Bridgton 22, 23. Advices of Dec. 16.

AFTER A SHORT TRIP through the suburban towns, the reappearance of the stock company at the Providence (R. I.) Opera-house occurred Dec. 11, when "Divorce" was presented. The new company are rapidly winning favor, and in no piece have they appeared to better advantage. The excellence in all the parts was of such uniformity that there is scarcely room for criticism. Collectively, the company are entitled to great praise. The liberality which Manager Henderson has shown in bringing out the various pieces is commendable. The reduction of prices at the matinees, thus far, has proved advantageous to the public and the management. "Little Em'ly" was produced on Thursday, Friday and Saturday to fair houses. This week Geo. C. Boniface and his daughter Stella will appear.

DE WITT'S EDITION of acting plays has become so extensive that he finds it necessary to print a full descriptive catalogue, which will be mailed free on application. See advertisement.

"POOR JO," another new play, was produced at the Museum, Boston, Mass., Dec. 11. It is a dramatization from Dickens' "Bleak House," and the author is B. E. Woolf of that city. Our correspondent, writing on the 17th, says: "The idea was probably suggested by the success of a similar version in London. Mr. Woolf has succeeded in producing an interesting play, reasonably comprehensible to those who are unfamiliar with the novel, embracing the main elements of the plot without hampering it with useless details. The cast is as follows: Lady Dedlock and Hortense, Annie Clarke; Poor Jo, Mary Cary; Esther Somerson, Fannie Frances; Inspector Bucket, Wm. Warren; Tulkinghorn, R. F. McClannin; Guppy, G. W. Wilson; Sir Leicester, J. Burrows; Mercury, J. Nolan. Miss Clarke in the double role of Hortense and Lady Dedlock made a success. In the former she displayed one of the best pieces of character-acting she has yet given. Her costumes are elegant. Mary Cary as Poor Jo gave a fine rendering of the part. Mr. Warren was good as Inspector Bucket, and Mr. McClannin excellent as Tulkinghorn. Mr. Wilson as Guppy was very funny, and, what is better, was thoroughly true to Dickens. Miss Frances as Esther was pretty, but somewhat amateurish. Mr. Burrows as Sir Leicester and Mr. Nolan as Mercury were satisfactory. The piece is to be played all of this week. It has been preceded on each occasion by 'A Regular Fix,' with Mr. Barron as Hugh De Bras......'Sardanapalus' was brought out at the Boston Theatre, and played all of last week. It is well placed upon the stage, and Messrs Bangs and Aldrich and Agnes Booth have acquitted themselves creditably. At the matinee yesterday, Mlle. Malvina Bartolletti fell in one of her principal dances, and so lamed herself that she was unable to appear again. During the run of the piece, Manager L. R. Shewell and a portion of the Boston Theatre company are visiting the neighboring cities, presenting 'How to Get a Divorce,' an adaptation by Mr. Shewell from the same source as 'Wanted, A Divorce,' 'Life,' etc......George Fawcett Rowe and 'Brass' withdrew from the Globe last evening and will be succeeded to-morrow by Lester Wallack in 'All For Her,' which will then receive its initial representation in America."

THE CAREER of the New National Theatre at Tenth and Callowhill streets, Philadelphia, has suddenly ended by bankruptcy of the management. During the Centennial season "The Black Crook" drew crowded houses, but the employes did not share in the prosperity, and have been clamoring for the money due them for months. The musicians composing the orchestra are probably the heaviest losers. The ladies composing the ballet-corps, to the number of fifty, have lost about three weeks' pay. "The French Spy" was produced on the 27th of November, in a futile attempt to revive the drooping fortunes of this establishment after "The Black Crook" had ceased to attract; but the former was withdrawn after running a week to bad business. The management is the debtor of almost everybody, and it is rumored that the building will be converted into a market-house, although it had been announced to reopen on the 18th inst. with the spectacle of "The Cataract of the Ganges."

MRS. EMMA WALLER was the stellar attraction at the Walnut-street Theatre, Philadelphia, during the week ending Dec. 16, appearing in "Guy Mannering," "Duchess of Malfi" and "Macbeth." The revival on the evenings of the 13th and 14th inst. of Webster's gloomy tragedy "The Duchess of Malfi" afforded Mrs. Waller in the title-role an opportunity well adapted for displaying her varied powers, and she made a striking impression therein. The male characters were represented in a manner deserving of praise, a special word being due to Charles Walcot as Ferdinand, and Atkins Lawrence as Antonio. The engagement of Mrs. Waller was not as successful pecuniarily as she deserved. F. S. Chanfrau commences on the 18th inst. as Salem Scudder in "The Octoroon," followed Jan. 1 by Miss Lucille Western; Jan. 8, E. L. Davenport; and Jan. 22, Mme. Janauschek.

SIMPSON'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Ninth and Arch streets, Philadelphia, will be opened on the 18th inst. with the comedy entitled "Nature's Nobleman." During the two weeks' recess the establishment has been thoroughly renovated. The stage, which was rather small, has been enlarged. The old swings have been removed, and new drops and sets substituted. The whole interior of the building has been painted rose color. The Ninth-street side of the building will be brilliantly illuminated with several large gas-lamps, with colored glass, and in front of the Arch-street entrance there is also a handsome lamp. The entrance to the theatre is paved with marble, and the facade will be illuminated with colored lights. Prof. Wm. E. Morgan is to be the leader of the orchestra. Mme. Taussau's collection of wax-works, the Fiji Cannibals, the wild Australian Children, the Circassian and Bearded Ladies, and Admiral Dot will be on exhibition here.

AT MACAULEY'S THEATRE, Louisville, Ky., business was somewhat better last week. John T. Raymond as Col. Sellers was the stellar attraction. The attractiveness of this characterization is so well known to the public that extended comment is unnecessary. An addition was made to the company in the person of Miss May Roberts, who made her appearance as Laura Hawkins, and, barring a little nervousness, caused by it being her first appearance before a strange audience, she acquitted herself well. The support given to the star was better than usual. On Friday evening Mr. Raymond was to have produced, for the first time on any stage, his new drama of "Seven Oaks." He opens in St. Louis 18, and Mrs. Rachael Macauley will appear in Louisville same date.

DR. JOHN S. HOUGHTON, the father of Miss Helen M. Houghton the actress, now attached to the Arch-street Theatre, Philadelphia, died at his residence, in that city, on the evening of the 11th inst., from apoplexy. He was well known by his connection with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. He took a deep interest in horticultural matters, and much of the success of the semi-annual exhibitions in Philadelphia of late years was due to his energy and perseverance. He was devoted to his family, and was sociable and much respected among his acquaintances. He was in the sixtieth year of his age.

AT THE FUNERAL of the lamented Harry S. Murdock, on the 11th inst., in Philadelphia, the following members of the Chestnut-street Theatre company acted as pallbearers: Messrs. McKee Rankin, James W. Norris, Frank W. Sanger and George Holland. The choir of the church (St. Peter's) was augmented by the presence and participation of Miss Lillian Conway and Miss Lizzie Glover.

C. L. GRAVES of the Varieties Theatre, New Orleans, has accepted the position of stage-manager at the Arch-street Theatre, Philadelphia, next season.

FLEMING and the stock-company of the Griswold Opera-house, Troy, N. Y., opened in Cohoes Dec. 11 to a fair house, and, owing to the hit of "Evangeline" in Troy, were to have filled out the week in "Custer" at Cohoes; but on the 12th the Cohoes daily paper had such a strong article on the dangerous condition of Music Hall, that city, that the business on that night dropped to $17; so the company was withdrawn, and Fleming compromised with for his week's engagement......George Wilton is associated with W. D. Van Arnum in the management of the Griswold......Stuart Robson in "Two Men of Sandy Bar" is the star in Troy for the week ending Dec. 23. Correspondence dated 17.

AT FOX'S VARIETY THEATRE, Philadelphia, a reduction of the prices of admission was made on the 11th inst., when Miss Emma Verne, vocalist, made her first appearance there, and an enjoyable entertainment, participated in by Paddy Murphy, Emma Brennan, Susie Warren, Ella Sheldon, Mlle. Alexandrina, the Fontainbleau Sisters and John Pendy, was concluded by the drama of "Rip Van Winkle," in which George W. Thompson gave an acceptable portraiture of the title-role. Sid C. France commences an engagement on the 18th inst. in his drama of "Marked for Life." The Zanfretta Troupe will appear on the 25th inst. in a Christmas pantomime. Matinees are now given here every afternoon.

"TWELFTH NIGHT" was withdrawn from the stage of the Chestnut-street Theatre, Philadelphia, on the 16th inst., after a run of three weeks. It will be followed on the 18th inst. by the production, for the first time on any stage, of Eleanor Kirk's society-comedy entitled "Flirtation." A new adaptation of Chas. Reade's comedy "Masks and Faces" will be produced here January 1, 1877. Great credit is due to the management of this theatre for the admirable manner in which they have cast and mounted every piece produced, and for the energy they have displayed in raising the Chestnut to its present proud position.

EFFIE ELLSLER, in "Clouds" and as Rosalind in "As You Like It," was the star attraction at the Academy of Music, Buffalo, N. Y., last week. "Clouds" ran to bad business until 15, when "As You Like It" was brought out with no better success, and filled out the week. The weather ruled more severe during this engagement than for several years. George Fawcett Rowe begins 18. A Common Council committee, appointed to examine the means of exit of the various places of amusements in this city, visited the Academy one day this week, and were shown over the house. The borders are prepared in alum, and among one of the tests successfully employed to demonstrate that there was no possibility of their catching fire was a lighted newspaper being held directly under them, which failed to ignite the scenery.

STUART ROBSON and "The Two Men of Sandy Bar" did not score a very great success at the Leland Opera-house, Albany, N. Y., last week, though to those who did attend both the piece and star proved entertaining. The stage will be occupied 18, 19 by amateurs, who will present the operettas of "Box and Cox" and "Rose of the Forest," for the benefit of a charitable institution of that city. The proceeds of the Wednesday matinee will be devoted to the Brooklyn sufferers, and Stuart Robson has volunteered his services for the occasion. George Edgar is announced to play King Lear 20, 21. "Louis XI" will be given 22, 23. "The Naiad Queen" is to be produced 25.

THE NEW OPERA-HOUSE, Knoxville, Tenn., was formally dedicated Dec. 11 by William Marble's Combination, performing a version of "Dora" under the title of "Driven from Home." The company is to close there 20, going to Indianola 21, 22, 23, 25, 26.

CLOSING OF OPERA-HOUSE, ROCHESTER, N. Y.—At the Opera-house the attraction billed for the past week was "Uncle Tom's Cabin," with Bobby Newcomb as Topsy; but, owing to financial embarrassment of the manager, J. Clinton Hall, the house was closed after two performances had been given. This to the public was quite unexpected; for, while it was generally understood that Mr. Hall was experiencing some embarrassment, it was thought to be but temporary, and that in some way he would be able to bridge the difficulty over. All such efforts, however, proved useless, and on Wednesday he surrendered his lease to the owner of the building (Judge Fink of New York), and closed the doors. The management of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," seeing no prospect of reopening during the week, left the city. It is understood that the immediate cause of the failure was that the company, having received nothing for several weeks, refused to play longer unless their salary was guaranteed. This Mr. Hall was unable to do, as he had previously made arrangements with his heaviest creditors to have all moneys received during the week pass into the hands of a receiver, and be by him distributed in an equitable and proper manner. By this means the company would have received a sufficient sum to at least partly reimburse them for their services, and which, under the circumstances, was the best plan Mr. Hall could offer. They, however, did not choose to agree to such a proposition, which left the management with no alternative but to close the theatre. Judge Fink has tendered the management to Leon H. Lempert, who will reopen the theatre Dec. 18 with the "Evangeline" Troupe. It is understood that under the new management many of the old company will be retained, and that the stars previously engaged will appear in their regular order. Friday and Saturday evenings, benefit performances were tendered the company, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," with Fred. Wren as Topsy, being the attraction. Letter of Dec. 16.

A "FORBIDDEN FRUIT" COMPANY is to perform in Reading, Pa., Dec. 18, 19......Joseph H. Keane and a company are billed for 23, 25.

OUR SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., letter, dated Dec. 10, is as appended:

Playgoers are profoundly impressed by the dreadful tragedy at the burning of the Brooklyn Theatre, and many absented themselves from their usual haunts last week, owing to a vague apprehension of a similar calamity in our midst. Their fears were greatly added to by the remembrance of the recent loss of life consequent upon a panic in the Chinese theatre in this city, and upon the giving-way of timbers in the Sacramento Theatre. The security of our places of amusement, with what facilities are afforded for egress in case of fire, is a question receiving the gravest consideration of the press .....The reappearance of Nell the California Diamond, who, since her return from Australia, has dropped the appellation of "little," was made on Dec. 4 at the California Theatre, without attracting much attention from either the critics or theatre-goers. Such notice as she did receive was mostly unfavorable. In a variety theatre, Nell, with her banjo and songs, could be admired and judiciously praised, but not on a dramatic stage. Nell is not so attractive as she was, because she has outgrown the childish ways she still affects, so that what was once deemed piquancy has become assurance. W. A. Mestayer's talent for eccentric character-acting, and his sly, quaint fun made him a prominent feature in "The Little Detective" and "Fidelia," the two pieces which Nell produced this week. She stays one week longer, leaving a few nights before the appearance of Florence for the principal stock actors to take their annual benefit..... The chief interest manifested by the public towards theatricals is directed at present to the Grand Opera-house, where the performances of "Our Boarding-house" are given to audiences constantly increasing in numbers. Repetition of the comedy has made the actors easy in their parts, and the representation is as smooth as polished wax. No diminution of spirit is perceptible in the efforts of the actors while acquiring finished methods, the applause and laughter evoked by the performance being heartier and even more spontaneous than at the first production, when the piece made an instantaneous success. The leading man, Matt Lingham, has won favorable recognition on all sides for a realistic portrayal of a sinister Italian, who has the outward graces of a gentleman, and the experience of a man of the world. In make-up, address, carriage and accent, he is singularly effective, and the quiet style of acting employed, which is dignified by intense expression has drawn attention to the actor, whose previous appearance had failed to establish a definite idea of his ability. Mr Polk improves the details of his side-splitting personation of Gillypod, and A. D. Bradley, who plays the companion-character, Col. M. T. Elevator, displays decided ability for catching the significance of character, and shows the skill of an experienced actor in the use of light and shade. M. A. Kennedy in the Dundrearyish part of Clarence Dexter is amusing, and at the same time commendably free from exaggerating the traits of English stage swells, which is too frequently done. The weakest point of the cast is Eleanor Cary's personation of Beatrice Manheim. The lady endeavors to accomplish too much. She does not appear to appreciate the relative importance of other characters in a stage-group. "Our Boarding-house" will be acted until Christmas, when "Ahmed" will be produced..... The Berger Family begin their last week at Baldwin's Academy on the 11th. Their departure will be the signal for the appearance on the 18th of the Royal Prussian Band, numbering forty pieces......The debut of Miss Ellen Coursen, a favorite of society, as violinist, pianist and vocalist, at Platt's Hall, on the 5th, was a signal failure. The critics next morning said as much in temperate, but firm language. Miss Coursen, who has long been a star in private parlors, and always flattered by the thoughtless praise of friends, took violent exception to the dictum of the critics, and in a published card imputed their opinions to ignorance and venality. Camilla Urso appears at Platt's Hall on the 12th......Both of Maguire's theatres, on Bush street, are closed......Mrs. Dalziel (Dickey Lingard) has given birth to a daughter.

"MONTE CRISTO" was produced with much splendor at the Royal Opera-house, Toronto, Ont., during the week ending Dec. 26. The scenery, costumes and appointments are all of the highest order, the former especially reflecting great credit on the artist. The dialogue of the piece is at times tedious, and might easily be cut down. Neil Warner played Monte Cristo and seven other changes in good style. C. W. Couldock was Abbe Faria, and what little he had to do was well done. Allan Halford was good as Fernand. G. F. Ketchum was exceedingly ludicrous as Caderouse. Sophie Miles was excellent as Mercedes. Annie Wakeman looked pretty and dressed well as Haydee. In the palace scene in the fourth act Brookhouse Bowler gave a solo for which he received encores. Charlotte Neville gave numerous fancy dances in a fascinating manner. Grace Paynter sang well, and throughout her part acted well. The minor characters were all well acted. The house has been crowded all the week. Lisa Weber comes Dec. 18, for one week..... Mrs. Morrison's Grand Opera-house was fairly patronized Dec. 11, 12, 13, when "The Corsican Brothers" was given by the stock company. Alex. Fitzgerald played the brothers Fabien and Louis very well. Henry Clifton was good as Montgiron. J. Sambrook played well as Alfred Maynard. Prof. S. S. Baldwin, exposer of Spiritualism, filled out the week to crowded audiences. Mrs. Morrison has a complimentary benefit Dec. 18. The bill will be "A Scrap of Paper." Daly's Fifth-avenue Combination begin 19, and fill out the week in "Pique." Correspondence dated Dec. 16.

MISS NEILSON, in her second week at the Olympic Theatre, St. Louis, Mo., produced (for the first time in that city in thirteen years), Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," put on the stage in an elegant manner, the scenery being new and the cast of characters excellent. Miss Neilson as Viola looked charming, and acted the part commendably; Eben Plympton as Sebastian made a good double; Frank Weston as Orsino gave a careful performance; Ferd. Hight as the riotous Sir Toby was true to the life; and the Aguecheek of Charles Plunkett was a fine piece of legitimate comedy acting; L. F. Rand's Malvolio could have been improved upon—his soliloquy in the garden was heavy; Harry Harwood as the Clown had a splendid make-up, and acted in a conscientious manner; Fabian was well done by L. R. Warwick, as was Antonio by J. L. Hay; the Olivia of Rose Osborn was almost too passive; Libbie Noxon merits commendation for a fine performance of Marie. "Romeo and Juliet" will be given 15, and "Twelfth Night" at the Saturday matinee will close the engagement. On Saturday night, 16, Frank Weston takes his first benefit, the bill consisting of "Damon and Pythias" and a farce. John T. Raymond begins a two weeks' season 18..... The off-nights of the Kellogg Opera Troupe at the Opera-house were filled by Ben De Bar and his company. The burlesque on "Norma" was presented Dec. 12, Ben De Bar appearing as prima-donna. His appearance in the garb of a Druid priestess was the signal for uproarious laughter, and his singing was loudly redemanded. Florence Chase sang the role of Adalgisa in her usually good style, and Emma Maddern made a graceful Pollio. The gem of the performance was the trio "Don't Annoy Me" by De Bar and the Misses Chase and Maddern. The burlesque was preceded by the farce of "The Female Bluebeard," and followed by the drama of "The Wept of the Wish-ton-Wish." The same bill was given 14, 16, the latter being for the benefit of Secretary Pat Gleason. A matinee performance will be shortly given for the benefit of the sufferers by the Brooklyn fire. Augusta Dargon begins 18. Letter dated Dec. 15.

"BECKY MIX," Maggie Mitchell's new play, held the boards of the Pittsburg (Pa.) Opera-house the entire second week of her engagement. The play, though but a series of improbable situations and incidents, affords the actress many chances for the display of her peculiar talents. In the third act, where Becky Mix recites her previous history, Miss Mitchell created a very decided impression. Wm. Harris as Julian Hyde the journalist was effective. Mr. Willard as Lawrence Yates, Mr. Gotthold as Bilks, Mr. Bock as Robert Bolton, Mr. Dean as Gen. Bangs, M. C., Mr. Stockwell as Jimmy Gee, and H. Harris filled their respective roles in a creditable manner. Miss Kate Fletcher as Eloise was neat and careful. Mrs. Holmes as Amanda Stork (*a la* Dr. Mary Walker) gave satisfaction, and Miss Hastings in the small part assigned her acquitted herself well. Business good. Dec. 18, Miss Mitchell as Mignon......The attendance at Library Hall, although good, was not such as the reputation of the actress should warrant. Mme. Janauschek appeared Monday and Thursday as Mary Stuart, Tuesday and Saturday as Lady Macbeth, Wednesday as Deborah, and Friday and Saturday matinee in "Chesney Wold." Dec. 18, Billy Emerson's California Minstrels. On Tuesday evening, during the representation of "Macbeth," one of the attaches of this house was working with a gas-retort when it exploded with a great noise, filling the house with a dense and disagreeable smoke. It occurred just as Lady Macbeth was about to utter: "Infirm of purpose, give me the dagger," and startled that lady so thoroughly that she made her exit without speaking the lines. Macbeth (Mr. Whiting) stayed upon the stage, as though nothing had occurred, and by so doing saved what otherwise might have been a panic in the audience. Nobody was hurt by the explosion, and nothing injured. Letter of Dec. 15.

NICK ROBERTS' "HUMPTY DUMPTY" TROUPE, consisting of Grimaldi Adams, Clown; Chas. H. Adams, Pantaloon; Chas. Ravel, Harlequin; Sophie Ravel, Columbine; the Siegrist Family and Twin Sisters French, specialties, under the management of N. D. Roberts, with H. E. Parmelee as agent, will perform at Wood's Theatre, Cincinnati, O., Christmas week, and in Louisville, Ky., the following week. Managers desiring to engage the troupe after Jan. 14, 1877, can address as above.

AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Montreal, Dec. 11, 12, "The Two Orphans" was given. 13, "Married in Haste," set apart for the benefit of the sufferers by the Brooklyn disaster, did not produce any great results, the attendance being small. The rest of the week the troupe played in Quebec, where they did well. On the 18th they reappear at the Academy, giving "Eileen Oge," and for Christmas-week the spectacular play of "The Naiad Queen" is in preparation."

KIRALFYS' "AROUND THE WORLD" COMBINATION performed in Wheeling, W. Va., Dec. 14, to an overflowing house, and showed in Johnstown, Pa., 15, and Reading 16.

COL. WILLIAM E. SINN publishes a card giving a list of vacant dates at the Park Theatre, Brooklyn, N. Y., and inviting stars who had arranged to appear at the Brooklyn Theatre to correspond with him.

A FIRST OLD MAN and a heavy man are wanted for a traveling company by "Manager," who can be addressed care of this office.

AT MCVICKER'S THEATRE, Chicago, Ill., the second week of the Florences in "The Mighty Dollar" has proved fairly remunerative. They go from here direct to San Francisco. During the comedy nights of next (this) week, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, the company appear in "Married in Haste." ......At the Museum, a rather light attendance has prevailed. Hereafter only the regular evening and Wednesday and Saturday matinee performances will be given. Next (this) week "Rob Roy" will be given the first half of the week, and "Never Too Late to Mend" the latter part. The news of the terrible calamity at the Brooklyn Theatre has affected the attendance at all our theatres somewhat..........At Haverly's Theatre, Salsbury's Troubadours have done the best business of the week. The entertainment opened with "Two Can Play at That Game," well acted by Messrs. Saulsbury and Webster, and Miss Nellie McHenry. After which "The Brook" was given. The party goes to Cleveland. Miss Neilson opens Dec. 18. Among the attractions at Haverly's for the remainder of the season are Charlotte Thompson, Frank Mayo, Effie Ellsler, Sothern, Daly's Fifth-avenue Company, Soldene Troupe, the "Evangeline" Troupe, Janauschek, Alice Oates, Boucicault's "Forbidden Fruit." Letter of Dec. 16.

E. A. SOTHERN in "Our American Cousin" appeared at the Memphis (Tenn.) Theatre on Dec. 12 to a full house. He was supported by Miss Linda Dietz, Miss Elizabeth Storrs, Mr. P. Cheevers, and the Stevens Dramatic Combination. "Our American Cousin" was repeated 13, 14. "A Hornet's Nest" 15, "Home" and "Dundreary Married and Settled" 16, which closed the engagement. Caroline Richings-Bernard's English-opera Troupe commence an engagement of one week 18.

THE EMMA LELAND COMBINATION performed in Alliance, O., Dec. 13, 14, 15, 16, and are billed in Salem 18, 19, 20, New Lisbon 21, 22, 23, Greenburg, Pa. 25, one week.

"ROSE MICHEL," with Miss Cecile Rush in the title-role, supported by Laura Alberta and a company, is to be produced at the New Institute Hall, Newark, N. J., Dec. 22.

C. W. RAVEL and wife, Harlequin and Columbine, late of Fox's Humpty Dumpty Troupe, advertise that they are at liberty to accept engagements.

A DRAMATIC COMPANY is wanted to support Rose and Harry Watkins. Address Chas. Young, as per card.

SLAVIN'S JUBILEE SINGERS, in their plantation songs, etc., and Geo. Kunkel in the character of Uncle Tom, are open for engagements. See card.

THE AGNES WALLACE-VILLA TROUPE will give two performances at Easton, Pa., on Christmas, and at Trenton, Pa., on New-Year's day and evening. The people engaged to support Miss Wallace and Sam B. Villa are Lewis J. Mestayer, J. B. Swinburne, Walter Glassford, R. L. Mayer, J. L. Buckley, Harry Berlin, Miss Sadie Deshon, Lizzie Gale, Ada Harcourt, Nettie Allen, May Melville and little Kittie Villa. Professor Wertheim conducts the orchestra.

CHARLES FECHTER, assisted by Miss Lizzie Price, Cyril Searle and one of Manager Ford's companies, occupied the National Theatre, Washington, D. C., during the past week. "Hamlet" was produced Dec. 11 to a large audience. "Ruy Blas" was given 12, 13, to light houses. During the remainder of the week "Monte Cristo" was presented to overflowing houses. In this play he fairly enthused his audiences, and was nightly called before the curtain. He was ably seconded by the Misses Price and Wellesley and Messrs. Cyril Searle, Walter Treville, W. H. Bokee and G. W. Denham. The scenery was nearly all new, and reflected credit upon the scenic-artist. Mr. Fechter and Miss Price open in Richmond, Va., Dec. 18. A matinee was given Dec. 13 for the benefit of the Brooklyn sufferers, when Joseph Murphy and the company supporting him at the Opera-house volunteered their services, appearing in "Kerry Gow." Owing to the inclemency of the weather, the attendance fell below the expectations of the management. "The Two Orphans" will be produced 25. Miss Kate Claxton has been engaged to play Louise......At Ford's Opera-house Joseph Murphy, supported by a brilliant cast from Manager Ford's double company, appeared in "Kerry Gow" to remunerative attendance throughout the week. The play was placed upon the stage in good style, with new scenery throughout, and the support rendered by the company was first-class. He plays in Baltimore this week. Letter of Dec. 17.

A FULL DRAMATIC COMPANY, except leading lady, is wanted immediately by W. A. Boyd. See card.

A CARD OF THANKS to C. W. Bowser, from his former company, is published in another column.

GEO. H. TYLER'S "HUMPTY DUMPTY" PARTY collapsed in Greencastle, Ind., 13.

KITTIE B. ELBERTS, soubrettes and juveniles, can be addressed for engagements as per card, in which appear several extracts from the press, praising the lady as an intelligent and vivacious actress.

MUSICAL.

J. G. RUBIN, clarionet and valve-trombone player, advertises for an engagement.

CHAS. T. MARSH, leader of brass-band and orchestra; J. J. Baker, solo B-flat cornet-player, and E. C. Glasford, second-violin and solo-trombone player, now traveling with E. S. Washburn, will be at liberty after Jan. 4. For address see dates in our advertising department.

RICE & GOODWIN'S AMERICAN OPERA-BOUFFE TROUPE in "Evangeline" held the boards at the Griswold Opera-house, Troy, N. Y., during the entire week ending Dec. 16. They were originally engaged and billed for 11, 12, 13. W. J. Fleming in "Custer" was to have finished the week, but such was the hit that a matinee was put on 13, and the opera-troupe was kept on the rest of the week. Business was large. Laura Joyce, billed for Evangeline, was not here, having gone home sick, from Albany, but the role was cleverly played by Miss Webster, a smart little lady of the chorus. On the 13th, Kitty Blanchard, impersonating Gabriel, was thrown from the boat on making her appearance in the first act, and so seriously bruised that she could not appear for half an hour, and then only to walk through the part. She was in her usual good spirits, however, on the 14th, and thereafter. The Trojans were delighted with Harry Hunter as the Lone Fisherman, M. W. Fiske as Le Blanc, Harry Josephs as Catherine, N. C. Goodwin Jr. as Capt. Dietrich, Golden and Dixey in the heifer-dance, etc., E. S. Tarr as the King, and C. Rosine as the stuttering sergeant. The orchestra, under Harry Braham, was the best heard in the house for some time. Before the play, N. C. Goodwin Jr. gave clever imitations of Gus Williams and John T. Raymond, tolerable ones of Sothern and Frank Mayo, and a poor one of Lawrence Barrett. Kitty Blanchard's engagement terminated 16, and Eliza Weathersby assumes her old role of Gabriel in Rochester 18. Laura Joyce will rejoin the troupe on its return to Boston. Advices of Dec. 17.

ROSE D'ERINA was billed for concerts at Pike's Hall, Cincinnati, O., Dec. 11, 13, 15. The first she fulfilled to a fair house, but the remainder of the week the lady was ill. She was to sing again 17.

THE ARION SOCIETY of Cincinnati, O., produce "Maritana" at Robinson's Opera-house Dec. 20. J. F. Dunnie, formerly of minstrel fame, is the tenor. Miss Cora Dean and H. J. Wetherell, both of the Davenport Dramatic Club, are the soprano and baritone. Dr. Will Taft is the basso.

THE LATEST ISSUES OF NEW MUSIC by Harding can be found mentioned in his card in this issue.

THE ARION CLUB gave its first concert this season on the 4th inst. at Association Hall, Germantown, Philadelphia. The programme included solos by Miss Fannie L. Barnes, soprano, and L. Engelke, violoncellist, the whole under the direction of Michael W. Cross, their new leader.

CARL GAERTNER and orchestra commenced a season of Thursday-afternoon concerts at Association Hall, Fifteenth and Chestnut streets, Philadelphia, on the 14th inst. The soloists were Charles H. Jarvis, Mrs. E. M. Hunt and Carl Gaertner.

MISS SELMA BERG'S lecture on music, and concert by Sweedish quartet, which were to have been given at the Academy of Music, Philadelphia, on the 14th inst., were indefinitely postponed.

THE CENTENNIAL CHORUS of Philadelphia is now permanently organized, and has adopted the title of the Thomas Choral Society, in compliment to the leader, Theodore Thomas. It is proposed during the Winter to give at least two concerts at the Academy of Music, Philadelphia.

THE YOUNG MEN'S HEBREW ASSOCIATION of Philadelphia gave their third monthly concert on the 11th inst., at Musical Fund Hall, in that city. Amongst those who assisted was Miss Florence Davenport, a younger daughter of the tragedian E. L. Davenport, and who displayed the possession of a well-cultivated contralto voice.

THE SOLDENE OPERA-BOUFFE COMPANY open at the Arch-street Theatre, Philadelphia, on the 25th of December in "Madame L'Archiduc" and "Trial by Jury."

THE CHRISTMAS ORATORIO of the Handel and Haydn Society of Boston, Mass., will be "The Messiah," and will be performed Sunday next, 24th inst., in Music Hall, Carl Zerrahn conductor.

MME. ANNETTE ESSIPOFF, pianist, will make her first appearance in Philadelphia on the 25th inst., at Association Hall, Fifteenth and Chestnut streets, Philadelphia.

PROF. EDMUND CLARK advertises to teach several instruments and to give singing lessons.

CIRCUS MANAGERS can engage a band and orchestra of eight or more first-class musicians by addressing G. W. Dixon, care of this office.

SOLDENE'S ENGLISH COMIC-OPERA COMPANY began an engagement at Ford's Grand Opera-house, Baltimore, Md., Dec. 11, opening to a fair house, which improved greatly each night. The matinee Dec. 13 was set apart for the benefit of the Brooklyn sufferers, and, notwithstanding the great exertion used upon the part of the management, a fair attendance only was the result, realizing about $250.

ANNA DICKINSON, supported by her own dramatic company, appeared last week to a fair attendance at the Academy of Music, Baltimore, Md., "A Crown of Thorns" being the representation every evening excepting Saturday, when "Enoch Arden" was produced by Miss Dickinson's company for the benefit of the Freneh Benevolent Society. Miss Dickinson as Anne Boleyn in "A Crown of Thorns" had a good reception and made a fair impression.

THE HOLMAN ENGLISH-OPERA COMPANY occupied the Euclid-avenue Opera-house, Cleveland, O., the past week, presenting "Girofle-Girofla," "Mme. Angot," "Princess Trebizonde," "Barbe Blue," "La Sonnambula" and "Grand Duchess." The Holman Sisters—Misses Sallie and Julia—acquitted themselves creditably, as did also Messrs. Brandisi, Ellis Ryse, Holman and Barton. The choruses were good, but lacked strength. Business fair. Dec. 18, the Salsbury Troubadours commenced a week's engagement.

THE KELLOGG OPERA TROUPE gave performances at the Opera-house, St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 11, 13, 15, and on the afternoon of 16. The operas presented were "The Bohemian Girl," "Flying Dutchman," "Star of the North," and "Martha." Business very large, especially Friday night, when there was a crush.

AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Montreal, the Boston Lyceum Company gave "Martha" 14, "Maritana" 15, and "Bohemian Girl" 16, to large and fashionable audiences.

SOLOS for professional and amateur banjoists, arranged simply and explained, can be obtained of Al. Baur, who advertises.

JOHN WHITELEY joined Payson's English-opera Troupe in Chicago, Ill., Dec. 11. He is to have charge of J. H. Haverly's interest in that company.

CHEAP BANJO MUSIC and strings can be purchased of the Dime Banjo Music Company, who advertise.

HARDING has just issued a new song, by Jas. Campbell, entitled "The Brooklyn Fire," which he strongly recommends in his card elsewhere to the consideration of vocalists.

THE BOSTON PHILHARMONIC CLUB gave a concert before an appreciative audience in Chicago, Ill., at McCormick's Hall Dec. 12, being the fifth entertainment of the Star Lecture Course. The next regular entertainment occurs Jan. 9, and will consist of a concert by the Smith-Whitney Combination...... Owing to the great success of their previous season, the Kellogg English-opera Troupe return to McVicker's for another season, opening in "Il Trovatore" Dec. 18......J. H. Haverly has entered into partnership with E. S. Payson in the management of the Payson English-opera Troupe. They appear Dec. 23 at Haverly's Theatre......The Beethoven Society gave its first concert of the season in McCormick's Hall Dec. 14......Emil Liebling's second piano-recital occurred at Reed's Temple of Music on the afternoon of Dec. 15. Advices of Dec. 16.

BAY STATE OPERA COMPANY are to sing in Portland, Me., Dec. 27, Bangor 29.

PAYSON OPERA COMPANY are to perform in Lowell, Mass., Dec. 27.

HYERS SISTERS' COMBINATION are to sing in Brockton, Mass., Dec. 28.

ALICE OATES' ENGLISH OPERA TROUPE closed an engagement of five nights in the Richmond (Va.) Theatre Dec. 15. The attendance was only fair.

A WELL-KNOWN BAND AND ORCHESTRA LEADER can be engaged be applying to Musical Director, as per card.

JOHN RUTLEDGE'S songs "Happy Again, as of Old," and "The Grave of Mabel Clare" are published by H. G. Hollenberg, who advertises. Mr. Rutledge is well known to our readers as a contributor to our columns.

F. W. HELMICK of Cincinnati, O., publishes a new serio-comic song entitled "Cardinal-red and Navy-blue."

VARIETY HALLS.

THE CLIPPER ALMANAC FOR 1877.—We have extended the time for receiving advertisements to December 27, and such of our patrons as desire to have their cards appear in THE ALMANAC will please send in their favors not later than that date. Rates and further particulars can be found in our advertising department.

BART SMITH and Dave O'Brien opened Oddfellows' Hall, Covington, Ky., Monday, Dec. 11, as a regular variety theatre, for the Winter season, showing Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of each week. The opening people were Foley and Waters, song-and-dance and clog; J. F. Lament, acrobat; Tom Haley, Irish specialties; Miss Georgie Morris, serio-comic songs, etc.; and the following dramatic people in "The Young Detective:" T. C. Collins, C. R. Broadwell, B. Smith, O. Coolahan, D. O'Brien, R. Watson, Miss Effie De Rock. Biz fair. To open 16: Retlaw Bros., gymnasts, four in number; Dick Burton, Dutch specialties; Wayman Bros., exposure of spiritualism; Billy Ford, comedian. The remaining three nights are put in in adjacent towns.

AT STEWART'S VARIETY THEATRE, Philadelphia, the new faces on Dec. 16 were Miss Anita Pearl, Mullen and Klein, and the McDermott Sisters.

JOHNNY JENKINS is performing at Miller's Variety Theatre, Deadwood, Black Hills, D.T. He requests, in his card elsewhere, Ned and Willie Ainsley to write.

MARTHA WREN (COLLINS), who has been seriously ill with congestion of the brain, is now at her home in Philadelphia, Pa., and is recovering.

ADAH RICHMOND is now performing at the Howard Athenæum, Boston, Mass., where all communications can be directed.

A NUMBER OF PERFORMERS are wanted by Geo. E. Stonburner, who advertises.

ROSELLE, female impersonator, advertises for an engagement.

AT SLUSSER'S THEATRE COMIQUE, Danville, Ill., performers in all branches of the business can find dates by addressing Manager J. E. Green, who advertises. Manager Green informs us that he will donate the receipts of the house Dec. 18 to the fund for the sufferers by the late fire at Brooklyn, N. Y. The arrivals for the week ending Dec. 16 were Mabel Gray, vocalist; Billy Maloney, song-and-dance; and Master Harry, musical specialist. The company also includes H. Von Brun, pianist and leader; Joseph Kerns, banjoist; Girard, comedian; Barker and Cran, song-and-dance, etc., all under the direction of J. E. Green.

THE AUSTIN BROTHERS, in their rifle-shooting specialties, recently concluded successful engagements in Boston, Mass., and Providence, R. I., and they insert in another column extracts from journals published in those cities, which eulogize their expertness as marksmen. They are now performing at Shelby's Adelphi, Buffalo, N. Y., and have one week vacant after each of the following dates: Dec. 25, Jan. 15, 1877, Feb. 5. Managers can address them care of this office.

COOL BURGESS' TROUPE as route here given: Ogdensburg, N. Y., 13, Gananoque, Ont., 14, Kingston 15, Napanee 16, Coborne 18, Campbellford 19, Hastings 20, Sterling 22, Grafton 23, Whitby 25, Peterboro 26, and Lindsay 27. Business is reported good.

THE MERRY BISHOPS are to appear in an extravaganza entitled "Splinters" in Pottsville, Pa., Dec. 25, Reading 26, Columbia 27, Lancaster 28, Danville 29. The organization is as follows: W. H. Bishop, manager and proprietor; R. C. Hill, stage-manager; Charles B. Griste, business agent; company: W. H. Bishop, R. C. Hill, Frank Swift, B. Reynolds, the Yeamans Sisters—Jennie and Lydia—Rose Bishop, Anna Yeamans, Frances Bishop, Adelaide Stanton, J. Kaufman, and A. Kaufman leader of orchestra.

AT THE CENTENNIAL THEATRE, Fort Worth, Texas, under the proprietorship of J. Lowe, assisted by Harry Devere as business and stage manager, the company at our latest advices included Sam Charles, Ned Lang, James and Leona Le Claire, George Filmore, Arthur Fergeson, the Carrara Sisters, Kitty Fisher, May Connolly, Kosure and La Mond, Ted O'Lacy, and T. N. Wilson. Departures: the Le Claires and T. N. Wilson, destination unknown; and Kosure and La Mond to Dallas. Billed to appear: Ada Montrose and the Newton Sisters.

AT THE GERMANTOWN (PA) OPERA-HOUSE the company last week included Max Walhalla, Eugene Lavelle, Fred and Nellie Mackley, Stella Beaumont, Jule Keen, Prof. Gorman, Marie Davids, M. W. Heppard, Katie Forrest and Master Frank Martin.

BOB MACK, dramatic and variety agent, advertises in another column.

AT PARKER'S THEATRE COMIQUE, Reading, Pa., the attendance was fair for the past week. The new arrivals were Sullivan and Curdy, George S. Garland, and Cherrie Chapman, La Petite Estelle, Edna Wellington, Dan Sully. Naoni did a neat juggling act. Winona Bridges did not close, as announced. Announced to open 18: J. Holmes Grover Jr., Matt Green, Nellie Weeks......Madame Ninon Duclos opened on 13 in her new quarters, and business has been remunerative. The auditorium, which will accommodate about four hundred persons, presents a very neat appearance. The stage and scenery were constructed under the supervision of Lew Faust, formerly of Hooley's, Chicago. Owing to the preparations for opening being completed sooner than was expected, the company was not as large as desirable. The performance consisted of a first-part, with Chas. King as Bones, Frank Gayton as Tambo, and Ninon Duclos as Interlecutor. In the olio, Frank Russell was seen in serio-comic songs and changes, Lou Howard in new specialties and ballads, Lottie and Frankie Russell in songs-and-dances, Kitty Norton in serio-comic songs, Frank Gayton and Chas. King in a laughable negro act. The performance concluded with "The Minuet," with Madame Duclos as the premier. Dr. T. W. Weeks is musical director. Announced to open 18: Chase and Williams. Letter of Dec. 16.

AT SHELBY'S ADELPHI, Buffalo, Dec. 11, the new people were McHealy and Ella Saunders, who were seen in statue-clogs, and later in black-face specialties; Louisa Bliss in serio-comic songs, and later with B. S. Hodges in a sketch, "One Year After Marriage," which was pleasing; Josie Farron and Jennie Eagan in ballet dances; Frank Lewis in character songs; Hanson and Heiser on the trapeze, the latter making his first appearance on any stage; and Adele Leonard, who were all fair. Business ruled fair—weather foul. Closed 16: Healey and Saunders and Carrie Boshell, to Hamilton, Ont.; Frank Lewis, to New York. Announced for 18: Chas. and Carrie Austin, the Austin Brothers, Eugene Blitz, Mollie De Marr, and the Hennessey Brothers. Letter of Dec. 17.

THE BROADWAY VARIETIES, Williamsburg, L. I., was opened Dec. 16 with the following company: John J. Delfield, Morrissy Little, Harry Monroe, Jennie Rogers, Andy Conrad, Delmanning and Fields, the Troy Brothers, Dick Burke, John Padden, and Frank Lester.

NEOSKALEATA was the fresh arrival last week at Tooker's Varieties, Norfolk, Va. Lulu and Admiral Yale and Lillie Linden are billed for Dec. 19.

BELLE CELESTE has again joined her former partner, C. C. Maathews, and they will in future be known as Celeste and Matthews. They can be engaged through Carlisle & Caverly, who advertise in this issue.

PROF. GUS HARTZ, illusionist, has a few open dates. He announces elsewhere that he can be engaged to appear in first-class variety theatres at a reasonable salary.

BARTON'S OPERA-HOUSE, Syracuse, closed Dec. 16. Business the past week was only fair. Manager Wild will open his new theatre about Christmas.

A. J. WHITCOMB, solo-harpist, and Mrs. Norma Whitcomb, vocalist, can be engaged after Dec. 25. Address care of this office.

HARRY G. RICHMOND is still performing with success in this city.

AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Chicago, Ill., a change has occurred in the management. Messrs. McCoy, Emmett and Woodward are now the proprietors; William Emmett, manager; William Fitzgerald, stage-manager. The theatre will be opened Jan. 1, 1877, and performers desiring engagements are requested to address as above.

ANNIE HINDLE IS NOT IN ENGLAND.—Bob Mack, the dramatic and variety agent of Cincinnati, O., informs us that Miss Hindle went from this city to New Orleans, La., about the middle of October last, to fulfill a four weeks' engagement in New Orleans, La., and from there to Galveston, Texas.

FRANK HASSALL, Dutch, Irish and negro specialty artist and comedian, now performing at the Norfolk, Va., Varieties, will be at liberty after Jan. 24, and can be addressed care of this office.

THE SISTERS DUVALLI—Heloise and Rosalie—dancers, actresses and vocalists, who have just arrived in San Francisco, Cal., from Australasia, will commence an engagement at the Grand Opera-house, that city, Christmas. Managers will find further particulars in our business department.

HARRY AND FANNIE WOOD, with a company of variety artists, including Joseph Arthur and the Love Sisters, are to show in Canton, O., Dec. 23, 25, with Christmas matinee.

THE NOVELTIES which Manager Hopkins of the Theatre Comique, Providence, R. I., presents weekly serve to delight his patrons. George Kurtz and Nellie Brooks opened Dec. 11. There also appeared last week the following people: Delehanty and Hengler, Carle, Miss Sanford and the Bennetts. The departures 16 were J. D. Griffin and Frank and Eva Bennett. For this week the following attractions are announced: A pantomime by Robert Butler called "The Magic Trumpet," Alida Showers, Frank George and Bryant and Williams......Manager Stalker closed the Academy of Music last week for lack of patronage. Several of the stars engaged have appeared at the Comique. Advices of Dec. 17.

AT THE THEATRE COMIQUE, Cleveland, O., the attractions for week ending Dec. 16 were Henry and Lizzie Douds, Dick Mack, McVickers and Sanders, and the Orrin Brothers in acrobatic acts. Arrivals 18: Kit Carson, the Norman Bros., the Boyd Bros., Lydia Rosa and Prof. Slowman. Departures Dec. 16: Dick Mack, to Toledo; the Orrin Bros., to Chicago; and Miss Sallie Mason and R. Ferguson, to Detroit, where they will join Madame Rentz's Minstrels......Matt Morgan's Novelty Company is billed for Dec. 21, 22, 23.

THE NEW FACES at Smith's Opera-House, Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 11, were Johnson and Bruno and DeWitt Cook, and departures 16 Alta Hallett and Dan Mason, to Toledo; and DeWitt Cook to Chicago. Harry and Mary Thompson and Dick Devlin open 18. Business only fair.

AT THE ADELPHI, Chicago, Ill., a capital variety olio has been given, including the musical performances of the Sharpleys, the acrobatic feats of the Snow Brothers and their troupe of performing dogs, the pleasing vocalisms of Jennie Engle, Iona Lang and Louise Franklin, the acrobatic dances of Mason and Dixon, two new (to this place) and excellent song-and-dance men, the admirable musical performances of Mr. J. D. Kelly, the wonderful equilibristic feats of Little Todd, the Irish vocalisms of Harry Clarke, and the trapeze performances of the Levanion Brothers, always good. The performances concluded with a good three-act drama entitled "Christmas Bells," in which the regular company appeared to advantage. The same bill will constitute the attraction of another week, with a new play substituted for the present one. Tony Denier is to perform in one of his own pantomimes Christmas-week...... At the Coliseum, a steady business has been done, and, as usual, a good entertainment provided. The new burlesque of the Brahams, "Pygmalion and His Gal-a-dear," has pleased; the Miacos have been received as warmly as ever; and Manchester and Jennings have repeated their successes. Departures: The Brahams, to St. Louis; and Wm. Devere and Ella Arnold, to Indianapolis. Dec. 17, Ed. and Alice Murray, Adrienne Grey, and Fernando Fleury appear......Pat Rooney will appear with Morris' Hibernicon party, of which J. H. Haverly has become a comanager, at the New Chicago Theatre during the weeks beginning Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Letter of Dec. 16.

THE NEW YORK ART STATUE AND VAUDEVILLE COMPANY closed at the St. Charles Theatre, New Orleans, La., Dec. 9. Their route has been already announced. On the 10th several persons announced were prevented from keeping their engagements on account of the delay of the trains in which they were to arrive. Miss Maud De Lisle appeared Dec. 11, and, although suffering from a severe cold, was well received in serio-comic songs. Miss Clara Belmont, another new candidate for popular favor, gave evidence in operatic selections of a flexible, strong and well-trained voice. Eugene F. Gorman opened 10, giving a flutina solo which received approbation. Miss Ada Laurent, Susie Starr, Frank Marra, Charley Armstrong and the Lawrence Sisters are still at the St. Charles. Announced for 17, the "Tells of America." Advices of Dec. 12.

A STAGE ACT, comprising fire-eating, wax, lead, etc., can be learned of Turner, as per card.

THE "MEMPHI" OPERA-HOUSE, Memphis, Tenn., has been doing a moderate business during the past week. The departures were Will Stowe, Burt Stowe and Mlle. Marcelus, on the 12th, for Texas......The Washington-street Varieties, under the management of Isaac Acheson, has been favored with good houses. The company playing at present consist of J. O'Brien, stage-manager; Minnie Herndon, May Meacham, Maggie Louise, Maggie Hunter, Miss Josephine, Master Phil Spaeth, Johnny Fisher and Johnny Clifton.

THE FONTAINEBLEAUS—Leona, Blanche and Ella—are now in the ninth week of their engagement at Fox's American Theatre, Philadelphia, Pa. They can be addressed as per card for dates.

RIPLEY advertises to teach the trapeze business for the stage.

DEATH OF ONE OF THE SNOW BROTHERS.—Daniel J. Crowley, better known to the profession as Dan Snow, one of the Snow Brothers, acrobats, died at the residence of his mother-in-law, in Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 10, at 2.10 o'clock P. M., at the age of twenty-four years, he having been born in Boston, Mass., Nov. 17, 1852. The cause of his demise was a strain which he received during his performances, which compelled him to give up his business in Philadelphia, Pa., in July last, and he at once went to Buffalo, where he remained until his death. This strain affected his lungs, throat and head. He suffered terrible pain, and was delirious during four days immediately preceding his death. His remains were forwarded to Boston, Mass., in charge of his mother, widow and sister-in-law. Owing to his long-continued sickness, his means were entirely exhausted, and he left a young widow without issue, who has to pay a large bill for physicians' services as well as other incidental expenses. Owing to the sad position in which she finds herself, she desires to appeal to the profession for pecuniary assistance; and if any of the professional friends, associates and acquaintances of the deceased feel disposed to aid her, they can send their contributions to Mrs. Lizzie Crowley, No. 463 Seneca street, Buffalo, N.Y. She desires publicly to return thanks to Alf. McDowell and other members of Dan Shelby's company, in Buffalo, for many favors extended to herself, as well as to her husband, before his death.

VARIETY NEWS from Cincinnati, O., to Dec. 15, comes as appended from our correspondent: "The fresh appearances at the National Theatre Comique 15 were Leslie and Ashton and Frank Jones. Leslie is the late partner of Avery, and Ashton of Hicks, and together they do a very pretty double-bar act. Jones appeared in a variety of characters in his sensational melodrama 'The Black Hand,' playing a number of musical instruments, and displaying considerable versatility. The company supported him well. The attendance has been on the average good. Departures 16: Tommy Neil, Fanny Kent, Leslie and Ashten, Loyal, and Frank Jones, the latter going to Columbus, and Miss Kent to Louisville. Opening 17: Rollin Howard, Fanny Beane, T. W. Hanshew, Nellie Larkelle, George Beane, Billy Wylie, the Two Haleys, and Imogene Hyams......Ed. Banker, Gus Mills, Edna Markley and the Suydam Brothers opened at Heuck's Hall 11. Banker in his changes, Mills in female impersonations, and the two in double sketches, took well. Edna Markley proved a vocalist of cultivation and taste. The bar and gymnastic acts of the Suydams were also a success. Business good. Departures 16: Iferd Sisters, for Galveston; and Clark Brothers, for Chicago. To open 17: Vaidis Twin Sisters and Ella Mayo......The Turner Brothers, who achieved a fair measure of success in songs-and-dances, and Murray Sisters, vocalists, opened at Loewen Garden Theatre 10. Departures same date: La Verde Sisters, to New Haven, Ct; Mason and Dixon, Chicago; and John Kernan, Toledo. Closing 16: The two Turners, for St. Louis; and Letha Weber, for Louisville. Vic Reynolds and Welby and Pearl are to commence 17. Rapid progress has been made on the new theatre, which, it is expected, will be open 25......At Shickling's Music Hall the fresh appearances 11 were Jeppe and Fanny Delane, Prof. Hermans, Johnny Bartley, and Fanny Duane, all of whom were received with favor. ......Della Wallace, Lydia Rosa, and John Kelly close at the Eldorado 16. To open 17: Billy and Maggie Homer, Emma Berger, Jim Kelly and Harry White......The new people at the Adelphi this week are Billy Butler, comedian, and Lizzie Jackson, vocalist."

WM. MORRELL, stage-carpenter, who was recently injured by the fall of Moore's Opera house, Sacramento, Cal., was the recipient of a complimentary benefit at the Metropolitan Theatre, there, Nov. 28, when the following attractions were presented: Little Lulu Morrell sang songs; Geo. F. Moore was seen in Irish specialties; Alf Wyman in motto songs; Ed. S. Peak, staff-bell solo; Johnny Williams, song-and-dance; Lulu Wilson and Alf Wyman in a Dutch act; Johnny Wretland did a clog; Lizzie Francis sang comic songs; Eddie Wretland Fonteneau gave female impersonations; Kitty Henderson and Geo. Moore were seen as the "Frisco Belle and Swell;" and the farce of "Nature and Philosophy" was given, with Wm. Morrell, Eddie Fonteneau, Geo. Francis and Ida Morrell in the cast.

W. H. BRAY, Dutch comedian, opens at the Theatre Comique, this city, Dec. 18. He can be addressed care of this office.

THE WOODS—Harry and Fannie—sketch vocalists, have just closed an engagement with Mme. Rentz's Minstrels, and will spend Christmas at their home in Canton, O., returning to Brooklyn, N. Y., Dec. 27, where Mr. Wood will assume the stage-management of the Olympic Theatre.

ANOTHER ATTRACTIVE PROGRAMME has been given this (last) week at the Metropolitan Theatre, Louisville, Ky., and there has been a succession of good houses. The new people appearing on the 11th were Miss Annie Fox, the Vaidis Sisters and Nully Pieris. Miss Fox met with an enthusiastic reception, and the audience never seem to tire of her serio-comic effusions. The Vaidis Sisters in their parlor gymnastics and act upon the trapeze were wonderfully daring. Miss Pieris' singing has hardly been excelled upon this stage. The following close 16: The Vaidis Sisters, destination undecided; Ella Davis, Indianapolis; Nully Pieris and Annie Fox, St. Louis; Burt Clark, Indianapolis. Billed for 18: Will H. Stowe and performing dogs, Mlle. De Coursey, Albert Burt, Alf. Miles, De Alve Sisters and Letha Weber......Billy Pastor's Troupe gave three performances at Masonic Temple, commencing 11, but, on account of counter attractions, the attendance was limited. The Foy Sisters were very good, and the entire troupe was a fair one, and deserved better patronage. Letter dated Dec. 14.

AT THE GRAND CENTRAL, Philadelphia, the attendance was excellent during the week ending Dec. 16, the fresh features of the programme presented being the specialties of Sheridan and Mack, Miss Nellie St. John, the Leslie Brothers and Hugh Fay. Sheridan and Mack were received with marked approbation in their clever sketch entitled "Dot Liddle House Ofer Der Rhine." Miss Nellie St. John in her ballads was well received, she possessing a voice in which power and sweetness are well blended. The Leslie Brothers proved themselves to be a source of considerable attraction in a capital acrobatic act. The new ballet of "Orgia E Passo Demoni," and the dancing of Mlles. Lupo, Elise, Helene Smith, Christine Robinson, and the Clinetop Sisters spoke well for the ability of the veteran ballet-master George W. Smith. Hugh Fay was very good as Michael O'Hara in the concluding drama of "The Fastest Boy in Philadelphia." On the 18th inst. will appear the Richmond Sisters, Huber and Glidden, Sam Baylis, and Western and Walling. N. B. Fithian, the treasurer of this establishment, has resigned, and E. G. Stone, formerly the treasurer of Simmons & Slocum's Minstrels, now fills the vacancy.

THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC HALL, on Samson street above Eighth, Philadelphia, was opened on Saturday evening, Dec. 16, with the following company: Barney Reynolds, stage-manager; the Yeamans Sisters, Miss Emma Verne, Miss Ida Greenfield, Miss Sadie Merrell, Miss Sallie Burton, Miss Jennie Deazer, the Blossoms, Nellie and Walla Leonard, Charles O'Brien and Charles Davis.

SKIFF & GAYLORD'S VARIETIES, late Ladner's Military Hall, Philadelphia, was opened on the 16th inst. under the management of Low Gaylord.

A YOUNG MAN wants an engagement as a North-of-Ireland vocalist. See B. L.'s card.

PERFORMERS are wanted at Ninon Duclos' New Winter-garden Theatre, Reading, Pa., just completed and opened. See advertisement.

PERFORMERS desiring engagements at Noonan's Varieties, Philadelphia, Pa., are referred to the proprietor's card.

THE OLYMPIC VARIETIES, Troy, N. Y., opens Dec. 18 under the proprietorship of Albert Webb, for some years a professor of music in that city, and formerly of several music-hall orchestras in London. Hiram Hogle of Troy, formerly with James Maas in a wagon variety enterprise, and later lessee of the Barton Opera-house, Syracuse, is business-manager. Eisman, formerly with Harrigan & Hart's Dramatic Company, is to lead the orchestra, and J. H. Marshall is to be the stage-manager. The company billed to open consists of Messrs. J. H. Marshall, Cummings and Hines, John Egbert, Dick Berthelon, Mons. Florentine, Misses Lillie Ellis, Georgie May, Virginia Marshall, and Sophie Thorne. Sacred concerts by fourteen pieces of a local band are announced for Sunday evenings.

ENOCHS' VARIETIES, Philadelphia, has undergone a complete and thorough renovation, and now presents a fresh and pleasing aspect. An excellent programme was given last week, under the supervision of John R. Lane, the stage-manager, and which introduced the Morosco Family in a capital gymnastic act, and Nellie Germon in serio-comic songs. Jerome and Cameron open on the 18th inst. A complimentary benefit to the veteran Ethiopian comedian Billy Wright has been arranged to take place on the 21st inst., when a large number of volunteers will appear.

BILLY HARRISON, Nellie Santord and Emma Smith were the new faces at Noonan's Varieties, Philadelphia, last week. Sam Nichols, the superintendent, had a large attendance at his benefit on the 13th inst. Miss Dolly Davenport, Miss Kitty Smith, Mel Kurtz and Denny Mack open on the 18th inst. Mel Kurtz is now the stage-manager.

AT MILLER'S WINTER GARDEN, Philadelphia, the new faces on the 11th inst. were Maggie and Billy Ray in their sketches, and Mons. Searles and Mlle. Lawrence in an excellent trapeze act. The Chapman and Chrisdie Pantomime Combination—Miss Bertha Krouse, Miss Lottie Horton, Tom Elviro and Alfred Martinetti—open on the 18th inst.

THOMAS H. JOHNSON, formerly of the Olympic Theatre, Philadelphia, is now managing the Germantown Opera-house, in the suburbs of that city, with W. Heppard as stage-manager, and Max Walhalla, Jule Keen, Fred and Nellie Mackley, and Prof. Gorman as his leading performers.

AT THE THEATRE COMIQUE, St. Louis, Mo., the new faces seen Dec. 10 were Dunbar and Ashton, who did the finest horizontal-bar act seen here in a long time; Fanny Reynolds, a pleasing serio-comic vocalist; Guy Linton and Lucy Adams, whose medley and "Dancing Quakers" received a double encore; Hattie Ellis, who exhibited her troupe of trained dogs; and the La Rue Family—William, Johnny and Willie—whose acrobatic feats were performed with surprising grace and skill. Stage-manager Dick Parker's benefit 14 was a grand success, the house being jammed. A host of volunteers assisted. During the evening the beneficiary was called before the curtain and presented with a purse of $100 in silver, a gift of the attaches of the house, and a scarf-pin, said to be valued at $50, the donation of Mlle. Emaline and Nelly Woods, members of the ballet. Otto Burbank made the presentation speech, and Mr. Parker responded with feeling. The D'Alve Sisters and Sig. R. Abecco close Dec. 16. To open 17: Harry and Lizzie Braham, Burt Clark and the Turner Bros......Dora Bishop joined the company at Looney's Dec. 10. Wiley Hamilton, a change-artist, with a large and elegant wardrobe, is one of the main features. His act is very clever......The company at the Novelty remains unchanged. Letter dated Dec. 15.

GEORGE H. COES and Luke Schoolcraft were respectively presented with elegant gold-headed canes on the stage of the Howard Athenæum, Boston, Mass., Dec. 13, by a number of their friends, who selected N. D. Jones of that city to make the presentation speech.

BUSINESS at Ward's Opera-house, Paterson, N. J., continues good. Conway, Mack, Petit and White have formed a combination under the name of "The Four Invincibles," and received four and five encores each night. Announced for 18: Harry Shay, Fru-Fru and Hazel Exod, Frankie Johnson, Conners and Coleman, Emma Rice, May Marshall (who failed to appear last week in consequence of the burning of her wardrobe) and James Roome. Departures 16: Conway, Mack, Petit and White, Mlle. Zittella and Morgan and Welsh lay off; Minnie Lonsdale and Wm. Gaylord, to Newark. Letter of the 18th.

THE ST. FELIX SISTERS, who have just concluded a successful engagement at Tony Pastor's Theatre, this city, publish their address in another column, and would like to hear from responsible managers.

THE THEATRE COMIQUE, Washington, D. C., attracted large audiences during the past week. Milton Nobles, supported by Miss Fanny Burt and the stock company, in the familiar play of "Jim Bludsoe," and Miss Minnie Seamon in serio-comic songs, were the fresh attractions Dec. 11. Joe Goss and Steve Taylor appeared Dec. 14, 15, 16, in sparring exercises. Jake Budd was the recipient of a double benefit at the matinee and evening performances Dec. 13. The departures 16 were Goss and Taylor to the Central, Baltimore, and Mollie Wilson to New York. Announcements for 18: the Gem Ballet Troupe, led by Frankie Christie, Niles and Evans, Harry Fox and Annie Rochefort. A performance will be given on the 22d inst. for the benefit of the Brooklyn sufferers, the entire company volunteering, and Manager Rodgers giving the entire proceeds resulting from the sale of tickets both at the box-office and by outside parties. Dated Dec. 17.

PROF. LAWRENCE'S STATUE TROUPE, Mattie Bliss, and Blanche Saville were the new faces at the Theatre Comique, Richmond, Va., Dec. 11. Prof. Lawrence's troupe is decidedly an attractive card. Mattie Bliss proved to be a good dresser, and took well. Carrie Bentley, who was announced for the 11th, arrived too late, and Manager Putnam canceled the engagement. Notwithstanding strong counter attractions, business during the week has been the best of the season. Blanche Saville closed 16. Neoskaleata is announced for 18......The Virginia Opera-house, under the management of Spaulding & Robinson, opened for the season Dec. 11 with the following company: W. P. Brown, interlocutor; Billy Lanning, bones; Charles Barrett, tambo; Wm. Sparks, C. S. Mathews, the Orpheus Quartet, Lizzie Eldridge, Nora Ryan, and Carrie Bentley, the latter opening the 12th. The Orpheus Quartet have deservedly created a fine impression. Billy Lanning, Chas. Barrett, and Wm. Sparks are also deserving of mention. Mollie Gaylord and Lou Davenport did not appear, as announced. Business light. Advices of Dec. 17.

PROF. PARKER AND DOGS, now at Ward's Opera-house, Newark, N. J., commence an engagement at the Theatre Comique, this city, Dec. 25.

AT THE HOWARD ATHENÆUM, Boston, Mass., the past week was dramatic rather than variety in its kind, the main attraction consisting of an entertaining presentation of "The Octoroon." The piece was neatly placed upon the stage, and the cast was a good one, and in some instances quite remarkable. Jas. S. Maffit bore off the palm by his picturesque and original conception of the Indian Wahnotee. In costume and in acting it was striking, and is deserving of the highest praise. Adah Richmond as Zoe was pretty and pleasing, but her method is hardly powerful enough for such a part. Marie Bates made an excellent Dora Sunnyside. Welsh Edwards as Mr. Sunnyside and Luke Schoolcraft as Old Pete were successful, and T. J. Martin, barring an inclination to exaggerate in his slouching walk, gave an effective performance of the overseer. Incidental to the piece, a chorus of some fifty negro voices sang a number of songs made familiar to us through the Jubilee Singers. After the play, a brief olio was given, introducing Gus Williams, Louise Boshell, the Austin Brothers in their very wonderful markmanship, and a farce, with Schoolcraft, Coes and Williams. Dec. 18 "Arrah na Pogue" will be given, and the pantomime of "The Green Monster," with Maffit and Bartholomew, and a variety olio introducing Walters and Morton, Marie Whittingham, Master Willie Newman, Fields and Hoey, Gus Williams, and Schoolcraft and Coes......The Boylston Museum is still doing well. Dec. 17 they gave a Sunday-evening entertainment with the stereopticon. On the 18th J. W. McAndrews joins the forces, and Harvey Blodgett, Lou Sandford, Ida Collom, Andy Collom, Chuck Atkinson, the Coleses, Gilday and Giniven, and the Parlor Minstrels will entertain visitors afternoon and evening......Harry Bryant, ventriloquist, has returned from a professional engagement in Chicago. Letter dated Dec. 17.

THE NEW FACES at Ward's Opera-house, Newark, N. J., the past week were Huber and Glidden, oyster-can mokes; Add Ringler and Minnie DeKalb in Irish sketches, Hurley and Marr, Franklin and Kingkade, Susie and Frank Gooden, Gus Foster and J. L. Fendell, supported by the entire company in "The French Spy." Departures 16: Huber and Glidden, to Philadelphia; Add Ringler and Minnie De Kalb and Hurley and Marr, New York; James Roome and Harry Shay, to Paterson; Frank and Susie Gooden, Gus Foster, J. L. Fendell, and Franklin and Kingkade, to lay off. Announced for 18: Angie Schott, Cummings and Turner, the Peasleys, Cardella and Victorelli, Ida Revere, Howard and Hayden, Prof. H. M. Parker, Carrie Burnet, Signor Revolti, Minnie Lonsdale and Jennie Belmont......At the Metropolitan the fresh appearances Dec. 11 were Marie Whittingham and Master Newman—the latter singing an original descriptive song entitled "The Brooklyn Fire," which was deservedly applauded—Eloise Lindon in operatic selections neatly rendered, and the twin-sisters French in their specialties. Little Joe Cawthorne has not appeared the last three evenings, being ill with diphtheria, and to-night (Saturday) the doctor reports his case serious. Closures 16: Gangero's Royal Japs, to Baltimore; Marie Whittingham and Master Newman, to Boston; and the Cawthornes, who are booked for Washington, but may be obliged to cancel the date on account of Joe's sickness. Booked for 18: Blanche Selwyn, Ben Gilfoil, Frank and Eva Bennett, Prof. and Baby Bindley, the Claire Sisters and Karl Lind. ......Central Varieties. To open 18: Lillie and Emma Moore, Golden and Wright and John Turbitt. Biz good at all the places......On Thursday afternoon, Dec. 14, the companies of the Metropolitan Theatre and Ward's Opera-house, assisted by a number of other volunteers, including the Boissett Family, Baby Bindley, the Jewell Brothers, Frank George, and others, gave a matinee performance at the Opera-house for the benefit of the sufferers of the late Brooklyn fire. The affair was gotten up at the instigation of Manager Waldman, and was a success, considering the short time in which it was originated and carried out. The proceeds amounted to $131.85, which on Friday last were handed to the proper authorities. Advices of Dec. 16.

THE NEW PEOPLE at the Adelphi, Toledo, O., Dec. 11 were Barton and Bell, Tommy Barton, Billy and Minnie Kaye, Frankie Howard, Geo. Sloman, and Maggie Pearle. Closing 16: Miss Ella Mayo, to Cincinnati; the Kayes and Barton and Bell, to Chicago; and George Sloman, to Cleveland. Opening 18: Conway and Kerrigan, Alta Hallett, B. C. Hart, Wm. Hasson and Nellie Ritter. George Conway is stage-manager for one week......At the Theatre Comique the new faces 11 were the Harrison Sisters, the Fostelles, John Klotz, Gracie May, the Two Haleys, Ida Bryant, Billy Bryant, and Sam Roberts and Sadie Rogers. Closing 16: Sam Roberts and Sadie Rogers, to Detroit; two Haleys, Cincinnati. Opening 18: Dick Mack, Smith and Devin and Amanda Archer......At the Atlantic Garden the company remains about the same. Closing 16: Billy Hasson and Nellie Ritter, who go to the Adelphi. To arrive 18: Lulu Lemar, Abb Lee, T. M. Quinn, Lew Woodward and wife......Ed. O'Brien, a highly respectable young gentleman, has gone to Boston to adopt the stage. Letter of Dec. 15.

HOWARD AND NEESON, at their theatre in Columbus, O., presented a fine bill to their patrons the past week. Den Thompson as Joshua Whitcomb made a hit. The Lynn Sisters—pretty, sprightly and graceful vocalists and dancers—were cordially received. Miss Julia Wilson in songs and Welby and Pearl in songs-and-dances met with favor. Signor Capolo in a contortion act was fine. Chas. Howard and Ada Sanborn were well received. Arrivals 18: Livingston Bros., J. Murtz, the Zoes, and Frank Jones. Departures 16: Den Thompson, to Detroit; Smith and Devine and Thomas Muldoon, to Toledo; Lynn Sisters, to Pittsburg; Welby and Pearl, to Cincinnati; and J. O. Hall, to New York.

TOMMY NEIL, Irish, eccentric and dialect comedian, would like to hear from responsible managers, and can be addressed at the National Theatre Comique, Cincinnati, O., where he is about closing a ten weeks' engagement.

ARTISTS OF ABILITY desiring engagements at Enochs' Varieties, Philadelphia, Pa., or at Avenue Variety Theatre, Washington, D. C., are requested to address Harry Enochs, as per advertisement.

PERFORMERS are wanted at Washington-street Varieties, Memphis, Tenn. See card in another column.

PERFORMERS, ladies especially, are wanted at Gilmore's Garden Theatre, Rochester, N. Y. See card.

AT THE HOLLIDAY-STREET THEATRE, Baltimore, Md., last week, Sid. France was the star attraction, appearing on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights in "Home from Sea," and in "Marked for Life" the rest of the week. He met with a fine reception and played to good business. The olio was strong. Niles and Evans appeared in an act entitled "Absurdities," which was funny, until Thursday night, when Evans left for Syracuse, N. Y., having received word by telegraph of the sudden death of his brother. Departures 16: Niles and Evans, to Washington, D. C.; Prof. Parker, to Newark, N. J.; C. Tapper, to Pittsburg, Pa. Arrivals 18: The Cawthornes, R. G. Allen, Hugh Fay and Dominick Murray......At the new Central Theatre business held good, the bill opening with a sketch called "A Terrible Uproar;" serio-comic songs by Emma Bretto; Geo. Carlyle and son in acrobatic feats, while the leap from the gallery to the stage by Master Geo. Carlyle brought forth rounds of applause. Departures 16: Billy Wylie, to Cincinnati, O; Geo. Hooper, no engagement. Billed for 18: Joe Goss, Steve Taylor and Barney Reynolds.......The Front-street Theatre is to open December 18 with a variety company with cheap prices........ At the Odeon there was an entire change of programme. Owing to sickness, Alice Gleason has not appeared the past week. Stella Beaumont also failed to appear as announced. The first-part was followed by Fanny May in serio-comic songs, which met with favor, as did her dancing. Joe Norton in his knife, sword, and cannon-ball act received deserved appreciation, as did the Classic Groupings and "The Two Comics" by the Davenport Brothers. "Uncle Jeff's Return" by Jim Dalton and B. Jean Buckley, Fru-Fru and Hazel Exod in musical sketches, and a sketch called "Conjugal Lessons" concluded the bill. Departures: Fru-Fru and Hazel Exod, to Paterson, N. J. Billed for 18: Helen Revere and Julia Bennett. Letter of Dec. 16.

AT TRIMBLE'S, Pittsburg, Pa., during the past week, Charley Benedict sustained his good reputation; the Irwin Sisters appeared in a dashing song-and-dance; Rel Meuab met with a good reception; the Perry Bros. in songs-and-dances, and Ned Perry in a bone-solo were good. The female-minstrel scene, with Charley Benedict as Bones, G. W. Herman as Tambo, and H. W. Williams as interlocutor, is still given. Press Eldridge and Lou Sandford, Chapman and Quinlan, and Gussie McCann, although announced, did not appear. Departures 16: Rel Meuab, to Cincinnati; Minnie Martelle, to Indianapolis; Simpson Sisters, to Chicago; and Lottie Brown, to New York. Arrivals 18: Antonio Family (four), Lynn Sisters, J. H. Graham, and Jennie Wade.

R. M. DE WITT publishes most of the latest successful Ethiopian plays and sketches, and managers and professionals are referred to his card in another column.

G. W. VERE advertises a song-and-dance and Lancashire clog for sale.

LADY VARIETY TALENT is wanted at Putnam's New Theatre Comique, Richmond, Va. See card.

WILBOR AND READE, musical trick artists, begin an engagement at the London, this city, Jan. 8. They can be addressed care of this office.

NEGRO MINSTRELSY.

EMERSON'S CALIFORNIA MINSTRELS, under the management of J. H. Haverly, played in Wheeling, W. Va., Dec. 15, 16, with matinee, to audiences which filled every part of the theatre. The performance was excellent, and as a whole it has rarely been surpassed. Fifteen people are seen in the first-part, Ben Cotton and Billy Emerson on the ends, and J. R. Kemble interlocutor. The vocalisms were effectively rendered by W. H. Tills, J. G. Russell and Beaumont Read. Mackin and Wilson in their specialty "Wash Day" was good. Earnest Linden's impersonations were highly appreciated. Billy Emerson's grotesque witticisms, dances and posturing are always amusing. The programme concluded with the afterpiece "The Opera in an Uproar." The company opens in Pittsburg, Pa., 18, one week, Cincinnati, O., 25, one week, Washington, D. C., Jan. 1, one week. Letter of Dec. 16.

SIMMONS & SLOCUM'S MINSTRELS are to perform in Canton, O., Dec. 21, Massillon 22, Akron 23.

LEW BENEDICT'S MINSTRELS opened to fair business at the Academy of Music, Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 13. Benedict and Charley Lord appeared to advantage on the ends, and later in two new and good sketches. Harrington and McGlone's song-and-dance was well received, as was Adams and Lee's banjo-solos. The singing in the first-part was somewhat weak. This troupe is to appear in Allentown 18, Harrisburg 19, York 20, Washington, D. C., 21, for six nights.

ROBINSON'S MINSTRELS showed in Eufaula, Ala., Dec. 12, Columbus, Ga., 13, Montgomery, Ala., 14, 15, Selma 16, Meridian, Miss., 17, and Vicksburg 18.

HAVERLY'S NEW ORLEANS MINSTRELS were in Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 16, and billed in Chattanooga 18.

THE OLD DOMINION SLAVE TROUPE played in Hastings, Minn., Dec. 5, Northfield 6, Faribault 7, Owatoona 8, Rochester 9, and are billed in Kasson 11, Waseca 12, Mankato 13, 14, St. Paul 15, 16. Business reported good.

MME. RENTZ'S FEMALE MINSTRELS are to exhibit in Detroit, Mich., Dec. 18, 19, East Saginaw 20, Bay City 21, Flint 22, Jackson 23, Grand Rapids 25, Fort Wayne, Ind., 26, Logansport 27, Lafayette 28, Danville, Ill., 29, Bloomington 30. R. V. Ferguson, Sallie Mason and Lulu Francis join the troupe in Detroit.

J. W. FREETH, basso or baritone and interlocutor, is disengaged, and can be addressed as per card.

BILLY SWEATNAM'S MINSTRELS, Philadelphia, during the week ending Dec. 16, presented Griffin and Rice's new song-and-dance, "Blue Eyes and Golden Hair;" Charley Reynolds and W. H. Brockway in burlesque of "Macbeth," and Billy Sweatnam and Frank Cushman as "Uncle Abe and Sister Ruth." Griffin and Rice closed there on the 16th inst. Edwin Thomas, pedestal-dancer, and C. W. Brewster, ventriloquist, open on the 18th inst. Robert Frazer and his own company appear on the 25th inst. in a new comic trick pantomime.

CARNCROSS AND DIXEY'S MINSTRELS, Philadelphia, on the 11th inst. presented the following fresh features: "The Limited Mail Train," "Vienna Sausage Machines," "Scenes at the Zoo." Cheevers and Kennedy closed on the 16th inst., and Griffin and Rice take their places, opening on the 18th inst. The sensational sketch, "Around the World in 50 Minutes," will be produced on the 25th inst.

HAVERLY'S MINSTRELS performed in Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 14, Binghamton 15, Utica 16, Albany 18, and are billed in Saratoga 19, Troy 20, Cohoes 21, Poughkeepsie 22, Danbury, Ct., 23, Waterbury 25.

THE GEORGIA MINSTRELS are billed in Lacrosse, Wis., Dec. 18, Sparta 19, Kilbourn City 20, Madison 21, Watertown 22. Business is reported good.

CIRCUSES.

PROF. GEORGE WAMBOLD, with his troupe of educated dogs, and Little George Wambold can be engaged for the season of 1877. Prof. Wambold is a contortionist and does the magic-barrel business on a pedestal. Little George does the Risley act, chrystal-pyramid business and tumbling. Address as per advertisement.

CHARLES COVELLI the equestrian, and Charles Grady the clown, who have been connected with circuses for the past twenty-five years, have retired, and are now proprietors of the Sherman House, Crawfordsville, Ind.

CHALET, the ventriloquist with the sideshow of Parks & Davies with Howes' London Circus, was presented in Memphis, Tenn., Nov. 30, with a handsome gold medal by the employes of the above firm.

MASTER DAVIE CASTELLO, the boy bareback rider, lately with Barnum's Show, has returned to his home in Norfolk, Va., where he will sojourn during the Winter.

THE HARLAND BROS.—Dan, Frank and Charles—can be engaged for the next tenting season. Business: Juggling, plate and hat spinning, trapeze, ceiling-walking and pantomime. Address as per advertisement.

THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS gave its opening performance on the evening of the 16th in the handsome building at Broad and Cherry streets, Philadelphia, formerly known as the Offenbach Garden. A large house was assembled, and the spectators seemed much satisfied with the varied performance of the admirable troupe under the direction of Dr. James L. Thayer. The equestrian acts of Mlle. Clarinda Lowando, Romeo Sebastian and Charles Reed were distinguished by grace and daring; while the acrobatic specialties of Mons. Lamkins, George Richards, Charles O'Brien, Tilly, Morgan and Nixon, Forepaugh and Clifton, Charles Burrows, Wm. Burt, the Francois Brothers, and Charles Spencer, were executed cleverly. Pete Conklin, Jimmy Reynolds and Billy Burt were highly diverting as the clowns.

MLLE. MILLIE RUSSELLIE, the well-known trapeze performer, has associated herself with Edward Baldwin and Edward Leopold, and they are now rehearsing in Philadelphia a triple trapeze act and some other novel gymnastic feats.

STICKNEY & CO.'S NEW YORK CIRCUS COMPANY is playing in the Academy, Chicago, Ill., to moderate business. They give a good entertainment, and it is quite a novel enjoyment to sit in so elegant a little place as the Academy and see a circus show. They continue till Jan. 1, when Billy Emmet takes the house in hand, he having secured a lease for a year. He will run it as a variety theatre at low rates of admission.

MARTINHO LOWANDE, Brazilian bareback and four-horse rider, has just concluded a season with P. T. Barnum's show, and is now open for engagements for 1877. He has five horses to perform with, and also advertises several horses and a mule for sale.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE CLIPPER ALMANAC FOR 1877.—We have extended the time for receiving advertisements to December 27, and such of our patrons as desire to have their cards appear in THE ALMANAC will please send in their favors not later than that date. Rates and further particulars can be found in our advertising department.

Obituary.

DIED DEC. 3, NELLIE, AGED TWELVE YEARS, THE DAUGHTER OF MRS. C. HASWELL, 904 PINE STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Thou art gone, thou hast solved the problem of life,
Thou art free from earth's carking cares;
The portals of gloom,
Which lead into the tomb,
Guided thee from temptation's snares.
Thou hast passed through the vale of the shadow of death.
Thou hast reached thy journey's end;
Thou had'st one firm stay
Through the whole long way,
One faithful, abiding Friend—
One Friend, who gave proof of his glorious love,
In the darkest, saddest hour;
For thy rest was sure,
Thy haven secure,
Through the might of His saving power.
Thou wast taken away in thine early youth,
From the manifold evils to come;
With the Lamb that was slain,
The Redeemer to reign,
Hast thou entered thy heavenly home.
The hand that upheld and supported thy steps,
And guided thy homeward flight,
Ne'er slackened its hold
Till within the warm fold
Thou wert safe from the darkness and night.
He tempers the wind to the lamb that is shorn,
And giveth His loved ones sleep;
And thee hath He sought,
By His holiness bought,
In His marvelous harvest to reap.
Oh! our darling, how joyful and happy for us,
To know that on His loving breast,
No sorrow or sin,
E'en without or within,
Mars the calm of thy beautiful rest.

SCENERY THAT WILL NOT BURN.—Marie Macart writes to us that she has invented and applied for a patent for a fire-proof compound which can be sold very cheap, and when applied to canvas, used for scenery and to tarletan or other material used for ballet costumes, renders them perfectly inflammable. She incloses specimens which we have subjected to fire, and they burned slowly and without emitting any flame whatever. Theatrical or other managers who desire to correspond with the lady on the subject can address her at Miller's Hotel State street, Chicago, Ill.

MCEVOY'S HIBERNICA AND HEALY'S HIBERNIAN MINSTRELS performed in Independence, Mo., Dec. 13, 14, Lexington, 15, 16, and are billed in St. Joseph, 18, 19, Leavenworth, Kan., 20, 21, Atchison, 22, 23, Kansas City, Mo., 24, 25.

MERCHANT'S HOTEL, Johnstown, Pa., which has recently changed hands and been refitted, offers special rates to the profession. See Heist & Kropp's card.

A. G. WESTON offers a file of CLIPPERS for sale. See card.

MAJOR TOT the dwarf was exhibited during the past week in Holyoke, Mass., and will be in Springfield the next two weeks. His manager has purchased a diminutive hack and two ponies for the conveyance of the Major.

KIT CLARKE, who has been the business-manager for Prof. Zera, magician, during the past three years, has left him.

"THE DREAMING IOLANTHE," the head sculptured out of butter, is being exhibited by Mrs. Brooks, the artist, at 1,302 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

MRS. ADELAIDE U. MURDOCH, aunt of the late Harry Murdoch, delivered a lecture on the 14th inst. at Concert Hall, Philadelphia, her subject being "Substance and Shadow." Many tickets had previously been sold, and for this reason the lecture was given, notwithstanding the Brooklyn calamity.

FIRE.—During the conflagration which broke out in Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 14, the Grand Opera-house took fire, but the flames were extinguished before any great damage was done.

CAZENEUVE, magician, has been at Beethoven Hall, Boston, Mass., some ten days, doing a very fair business. He closes Dec. 20.

LUCIA ZARATE and Frank Mite, little people, are exhibiting at Horticultural Hall, Boston, Mass.

PROF. S. S. BALDWIN, exposer of spiritualism, exhibits in Toronto, Ont., Dec. 14, 15, 16, and is billed in Peterboro 18, Belleville 19, 20, Ottawa 21, 22, Montreal 26, 27, 28, Quebec 29.

THE GHOST SHOW is attracting a great deal of attention in Baltimore, Md., and is doing well.

THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Baltimore, Md., was sold Dec. 14 under a foreclosure of mortgage. The building brought $165,000, the first and only bid.

MR. JOHN HODGE, proprietor of the Opera house, Lockport, N. Y., and of Merchant's Gargling-oil notoriety, has secured a controlling interest in the Union Printing and Publishing Company of Lockport, publishers of *The Daily Union* and *Weekly Democrat*, of which company he is now president. Mr. Hodge's business experience ought to be of benefit to those journals.

STOVER'S OPERA-HOUSE, Marengo, Ia., will be ready for occupancy Dec. 20. It has a stage, with scenery, and will seat six hundred. A good troupe can engage it for the holidays. Address M. W. Stover, proprietor.

MAGIC TRICK-BOXES are to be obtained at Forster's manufactory, advertised in another column.

PROFESSIONALS visiting England are referred to an advertisement of the St. James Anglo-American Hotel, Liverpool, of which J. W. Allison, late business-manager of Mrs. Oates' Opera Company, is the proprietor.

JOHN RICKABY, business-manager and agent, will be at liberty after Dec. 23, and can be addressed as per card.

SIGNOR BOSCO, wizard, performed in Cato, N. Y., Dec. 8, 9, 11, Wolcott 12, 13, 14.

J. CHADSEY, whose address find in another column, is prepared to arrange orchestral parts for songs and ballads.

ADMIRAL DOT, the dwarf character artist, having just closed an engagement with P. T. Barnum, advertises that he is at liberty to arrange for dates to appear in his specialties. He opens for a short season at the Philadelphia (Pa.) Museum Dec. 18.

DELIESSER'S STEREOPTICON, illustrating a tour around the world, can be secured on sharing terms by hall-managers by addressing as per card.

THE OPERA-HOUSE, Oil City, Pa., will be managed after Jan. 1, 1877, by Sam T. Jack, who also has control of the New Opera-house, Franklin. Managers can address as per card.

N. D. ROBERTS is no longer the business-manager of Prof. Herrmann the magician.

WILDMAN'S OPERA-HOUSE, Edenburg, Pa., is now quite easy of access for traveling companies, a railroad having been completed to that point and opened for travel during the week ending Dec. 9.

PROF. EDWIN J. HOUSTON delivered the fifth lecture of the course on "Light," at the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, on the 12th inst.

DR. J. THOMAS lectured on the "Characteristics of Alaska," at St. George's Hall, Philadelphia, on the 14th inst.

LECTURES, ETC.—The following ladies and gentlemen are to lecture or to give entertainments as announced: Miss Helen Potter (readings and personations in costume), Dubuque, Iowa, Dec. 25, Lyons 26, Sterling, Ill., 27, Aurora 28......... Wong Chin-foo (Chinese Mandarin): Minneapolis, Minn., 24........Stuart Rogers: Connersville, Ind., 25; Kewanee 27, Mendota 28........Miss Nella F. Brown (reader): Arlington, Mass., 26, Dover, N. H., 28........Mrs. Livermore: East Bridgewater, Mass., 26, Concord 27, Worcester 28, Great Falls, N. H., 29........James Parton: Cambridgeport, Mass., 26........Prof. Raymond of Brooklyn: Peabody, Mass., 26........Col. Homer B. Sprague: Malone, N. Y., 26, Plattsburg 27, Auburn 29......Miss Jennie E. Ireson: Webster, Mass., 27. ......Rev. Henry Ward Beecher: Orange, N. J., 27, Stamford, Ct., 28......J. M. Bailey ("*The Danbury News* Man"): Rochester, N. Y., 29......John B. Gough: Peoria, Ill., 25, Keokuk, Ia., 26, Oskaloosa, 27, Grinnell 28, Des Moines 29.

PROF. W. C. RICHARDS is to give a series of popular scientific lectures at McCormick's Hall, Chicago, Ill., beginning Dec. 18. The course comprises seven lectures, to be given on consecutive nights and at a Saturday matinee.

THE JEWELL BROTHERS, magicians, are to appear in Belleville, N. J., Dec. 18, 19.

AN ENTERTAINMENT is announced to take place at the Paterson (N. J.) Opera-house Dec. 21 for the benefit of the sufferers by the Brooklyn fire, under the auspices of the citizens, Mayor Buckley being chairman of the committee. The following is a list of the volunteers: The Paterson Choral Society, Jas. W. McKee, the Entre Nous Dramatic Association, the Catholic Young Men's Literary Association, the German Singing Society, Walrabo & Woolley's brass and string bands, and H. C. Stone. The Opera-house company have given the free use of that house, and the attaches have volunteered their services.

AMATEUR.

THE DAVENPORT CLUB performed C. E. Callahan's comedy "White Sulphur" at Robinson's Opera-house, Cincinnati, O., Dec. 14. The house was filled, and the play and performance took well.......The Shakespeare Club plays "London Assurance" 19...... The Emmet Club are to perform "The Two Orphans" at the Grand Opera-house 24.

THE FIRST PERFORMANCE and reception of the Metropolitan Vaudeville Company is to take place in the Lexington-avenue Opera-house, this city, Dec. 19, when "The Rough Diamond" and "Quarantine" will be performed.

THE LATE HARRY MURDOCH was a member of the now defunct Forrestonian Dramatic Association of Philadelphia some thirteen years ago.

THE WHEATLEY DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION of Philadelphia presented "Lucretia Borgia" and "Lodgings to Let" as the programme for their regular weekly performance on the evening of the 13th inst.

DR. RICHARD MOFFETT of Philadelphia, who died on the 4th inst. in the thirty-eighth year of his age, was at one time a prominent member of the old Boothenian Dramatic Association of that city.

FOREIGN SHOW NEWS.

DRAMATIC.

LONDON, ENG., MANAGERS now have their time fully occupied in making preparations for the holiday season; consequently, few changes have been made in the programmes since the date of our previous advices. Such novelties as were produced are noticed at length on another page.....The Carl Rosa English-opera season at the Lyceum closed Dec. 2......"Dan'l Druce" was repeated each evening during the week at the Haymarket, as was "The Virginian" at the St. James, "No Thoroughfare" at the Olympic, "The Shaughraun" at the Adelphi, "Jane Shore" at the Princess', "Peril" at the Prince of Wales', "Our Boys" at the Vaudeville, "Not Such a Fool as He Looks" at the Gaiety, "Robinson Crusoe" at the Folly, and "Hot Water" at the Criterion. ......"Brothers" was withdrawn at the Court Dec. 2 to make room for "New Men and Old Acres," and the Gaiety programme was transferred to the Opera Comique on the 4th, upon which date J. L. Toole reappeared at the Gaiety in Albery's new comedy "The Man in Possession."......"Richard the Third" and "Macbeth" had alternated at Drury-lane, where Barry Sullivan's prolonged engagement was drawing to a close. On the 23d inst. Mr. Sullivan is to commence a provincial tour at Belfast, supported by J. F. Cathcart and Miss Adeline Stanhope......Joseph Jefferson is to reappear at the Princess' Theatre at Easter......The trouble between Henry Neville and G. W. Anson has been settled amicably by the latter paying £50 for alleged breach of contract, together with all expenses incurred......Walter Gooch will assume the management of the Princess' in September next.....Miss Genevieve Ward will play the Countess when "Danicheff" is produced at the St. James'.

GEORGE DAWSON, Shakespearian lecturer, died Nov. 30, at London, from syncope, resulting from the rupture of a blood-vessel.

MISS ADA WARD has been specially engaged to play the Countess in "Danicheff" at Melbourne, Aus., where the famous play will be produced by Mr. Lyster early next year. Miss Minnie Walton (Mrs. Lyster) will be Anna, and Lytton Sothern, Vladimir.

"DAN'L TRA-DUCED, TINKER," an original burlesque, in three scenes, by Arthur Clements, was produced at the Strand Theatre, London, Nov. 27. It does not merit further notice.

M. KIME of the Comedie Francais, Paris, died Nov. 27, aged 69.

H. T. ARNOLD (H. T. Arden), author of the "Blue Beard" burlesque produced at the Crystal Palace, and other burlesques, pantomimes, etc., died in London Nov. 25 at the early age of 36.

MISS KATE BATEMAN commenced an engagement at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Birmingham, Eng., Nov. 27, appearing as Leah.

"THE SHAUGHRAUN" was revived at the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, Scotland, Nov. 27, Miss Rose Massey appearing as Clare.

MISS LIZZIE CONQUEST (Mrs. T. Beard), daughter of Mr. Conquest of the Royal Grecian Theatre, and an accomplished actress, died at Brixton, Eng., Nov. 24. She was in her eighteenth year, and had been but a short time married.

THE FRAYNES commenced what promised to be a very successful engagement at the Queen's Theatre, Edinburgh, Scotland, Nov. 27.

THE VOKES FAMILY were at the Royal Amphitheatre, Liverpool, Eng.

THOS. YOUDAN, formerly proprietor of the Surrey Theatre and the Alexandra Opera-house, Sheffield, Eng., died at Filey, near that place, Nov. 28, aged 60.

HENRY MELLON, who first appeared in London with Macready's famous company at Drury-lane in 1841, and was afterwards with Phelps and Greenwood during their Shakespearian campaign at Sadler's Wells, died at Tottenham, London, Nov. 25, after a prolonged illness.

MUSICAL.

"RIEN QU'UN JOUR," a new comic opera composed by M. Hubens, words by M. Dupin, was first performed Nov. 25 at the Fantaisies Parisiennes (formerly Alcazar Theatre), Brussels, Belgium. The scene is laid at Lerida, in Spain, and, as might be expected of that unhappy country, a civil war is going on. The hero, Alberti, is condemned to be shot by the reactionary party, but is resigned to his fate for the sake of passing twenty-four hours with his beloved Zerlina. The catastrophe is averted, however, by the timely appearance of an officer and his men belonging to the party in power.

FERDINANDO COLETTI, one of Italy's greatest pianists, died recently at Rome. He was born at Naples in 1844, and his premature death is much regretted. About a thousand persons followed his hearse, and amongst the pallbearers the most distinguished artists and critics were to be seen. Coletti published several compositions which have become popular, especially his "Ombre Celesti" and his "Cavalieri Selvaggi," for the pianoforte. He was busy writing an opera, but the symphony alone is finished. This will be played very soon by the Orchestral Society, in favor of the fund for the erection of an humble but well-deserved monument to Coletti in the cemetery of Campo Verano.

"LA TOUR DE LA BELGIQUE," a new opera, music by Salvator Guerra, libretto by "M. Flor O'Squarr," was produced at the Bouffes Bruxellois (Casino), Brussels, Belgium, Nov. 26. A correspondent says of it: "Van Koppernolle, quite a typical Flemish character, is made the victim of a hoax by his friend Pepermans, who, in the disguise of a notary, brings the news that he has left him a legacy on condition that he shall find a lost child of the testator. Only a week is allowed for the search. The tour of the world was made in eighty days, so why not that of Belgium in eighty hours, and off starts Kopernolle with wife, daughter, and rival would-be sons-in-law, on his mission. The various scenes represent Spa, with the Valley of Barisart, the Grottos of Rochefort, Antwerp, and Ostend; and a beautiful dioramic view of the banks of the Meuse passes before the audience, the illusion being well sustained by the revolving paddle-wheel of the steamer. This view is painted on a single cloth nearly a thousand feet long and sixteen feet wide, said to be the largest diorama that has ever been produced. All this time Pepermans has been following his friend in various disguises, as the typical Englisman, the engineer of the steamboat, a vivandiere, and a bathing-man; and at Ostend the murder is out, and the lost one with the brown spot turns out to be only a dog.

SELECTIONS from Mrs. Corinne Young's new American opera "Ongarita" were performed Nov. 30 at the Salon of the Grand Harmonie Society, Brussels, Belgium. The theme is founded on episodes of primitive Indian life, and the music is of a brilliant character, recalling all that is best of Wagner. The audience, a large one, including the leading English and American residents, warmly applauded the work, which was effectively rendered.

VARIETY HALLS.

BABY BENSON is to give her specialties, for the first time in England, at the Adelphi Theatre, London, Dec. 18.

SAPPHO and Harry Baldwin were performing at the Spa Music Hall, Chesterfield, and have been engaged for the pantomime at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Birmingham, Eng.

HUGHSON AND CHANCEY appear nightly at the Oxford, Royal and Bedford Music Halls, London.

THE AMERICAN TEAM—Wayne, Lovely, Cotton and Birdue—continue at the Canterbury and Oxford Halls, London, and are engaged for the Christmas pantomime at the Surrey Theatre. After leaving London they proceed to Paris and Liverpool.

CIRCUSES.

Letter from Honolulu, H. I.

A correspondent sends us the following concerning Cooper, Bailey & Co.'s International Circus and Menagerie, now en route to Australia.

HONOLULU, Nov. 16, 1876.

DEAR CLIPPER:—The steamship City of Sidney, which left San Francisco Nov. 7, bore away from America Cooper, Bailey & Co.'s Great International Circus and Menagerie, destined for Australia. They were landed here to-day, and, believing a few words concerning their wanderings would be acceptable to your many readers, I will give you a short account of them from time to time.

The voyage, so far, has been indeed pleasant. The sky has been cloudless and the weather calm. Nearly three hundred passengers were on board, and among them were many well fitted to render the journey a holiday affair. With a well-organized circus-troupe and a band of colored minstrels on board a boat, a sea voyage should not be dreary. All were on deck when the vessel steamed down the bay, and the minstrels were unusually joyous; but when she passed the Golden Gate, and the rough ripples of the ocean rocked the boat, many went below. The colored boys were suddenly affected, the notes of "That's a Meeting here To-night" died suddenly, and before the sight of land was lost all of them were warbling "Put Me in my Little Bed." The sailors said the sea was as smooth as a mill-pond, but the landsmen suffered for all that. The second evening came, however, and all was life and gayety. Showmen are a jolly set when thrown together, and no other class can find so many ways to pleasantly pass the time. "Social Hall," as the public gathering-place on the hurricane-deck is called, was seized upon, and every evening it has witnessed an entertainment of some character. It would be unfair to neglect to state that part of these entertainments have owed their success to the talent of the general traveler. To the musical voice of Nat Austin, to the violin of Sherry Corbyn, to the recitative powers of Charley Seeley, James Robinson, and George Washington Middleton, to the declamatory style of J. E. Sackett, and to the singing of Carter, Moore and Jackson of the minstrels, the passengers are much indebted. They, with others, have and will render their voyage a merry one. The circus troupe is composed of the following persons: G. Agrati, J. B. Gaylord, R. G. Ball, and J. R. Lyons, advance agents (already in Australia); J. A. Bailey, manager; M. T. Young, treasurer; Wm. G. Crowley, press-agent and zoological lecturer; Horace F. Nichols, ringmaster; Nat Austin, equestrian director and clown; James Robinson, principal rider; Fred Barclay, Indian rider; William Gorman, hurdle-rider; Mme. Cottrell, principal lady-rider; Polly Lee, equestrian jugglery; Charles Seeley, grotesque clown; the Walhalla Brothers, gymnasts; John Cottrell, revolving globe; J. S. Leopold, horizontal bars; Mlle. Zenobia, A. La Reoux, flying trapeze; Satsuma and Little All-Right (Japanese acts); Madame D'Atalie, lady with the iron jaw; John Smith, Ed Aymar, Joe Williams, George Livingston, Frank Reynolds, vaulters, tumblers, and general acrobats; W. L. Keating, calliope-player; Luke Digney, master of canvas; Jules Meredith and Henry Peperill, assistants; James Roberts, in charge of stud; Oliver Dodge and J. M. Jesse, assistants; Geo. W. Johnston, lion-tamer and in charge of the menagerie; Charles Williams, Charles Warner (alligator), Theo. Ferris and John Curtis, animal men.

There are several others also with the company in subordinate capacities. The menagerie is as follows: six elephants, giraffe, hippopotamus, three lions, three cub lions, two Bengal tigers, hyena, jaguar, African leopard, puma, black bear, four sea-lions, sacred bull, two American deer, two wort hogs, monkeys, snakes, happy family, etc., occupying twelve cages. All the animals are in a fine condition, and have stood the sea travel finely. Eighteen horses go with the show.

A sideshow and concert accompanies the troupe, under the proprietorship of Geo. W. Middleton, who has the following people: J. E. Sackett, Ann E. Leak, Pearle and Henry Foster, Bobbie Scott and wife (Patti Rosa), Gibbons and Davenport. At daylight this morning we sighted Honolulu. The calliope or steam piano was got in readiness, and when within a half mile of shore it was played. Those who have heard the weird music of the instrument can imagine its effect upon a half-civilized people. It was wonderful. Honolulu, a city of 8,000 people, heard it in her farthest corners, and the hills behind her sent back the echo of the weird music with redoubled noise. They came pouring down from all sides, the juvenile element running almost their legs off to get to the wharf. Such a gathering probably never appeared here before. Their appearance, dressed in clothes of every hue, was remarkable. The boat at last was moored, and in a few moments thereafter two small boys programmed the town and issued dodgers to the effect that the menagerie would be exhibited during the afternoon. The town was alive with people from all the islands round, for to-day is a great day in the kingdom of his Hawaiian majesty. It is his birthday. Public offices and stores are closed, all business is suspended, and the people are having a Sandwich Fourth-of-July, so to speak. Salutes were fired at sunrise, noon and sunset, from the fort on one of the hills behind the town, while his majesty King Kalakua (more familiarly known during his late journey in America as his royal nibs King Calico) held a grand reception at his palace. A number of the company went to the palace, shook the hand of royalty, sat at a well-furnished table, and drank a glass or two of Kalakua's champagne. The people were much excited, and in fine trim for show-going. When the doors were opened at 1 P. M., the people crowded forward and the doortenders had plenty of work. The exhibition was given on the steamer, the cages remaining as they were shipped, and the people pouring into the hold. This soon became filled, and the visitors were loudly told that the giraffe, the calliope and the exit would be seen on deck. They were nearly all natives, and did not thoroughly understand English. They knew something was to be seen, and hurried up the steps to the hurricane deck, where the giraffe cage and calliope stood, they being too large to enter the hold. The expedient succeeded, the hold was cleared, but as to whether any of the people saw the "exit" or not this deponent sayeth not. And so they went in and out during five hours, when the doors had to be closed, in order to allow the sailors to bring ship-stores into the hold. The day's business was very good, the price having been 50 cents and the receipts about $750. To-morrow morning at daylight we leave this port and continue our journey. The next stopping-place will be the Fiji Islands, ten days' journey distant from here. From there we go direct to Sidney, New South Wales, where the Australian opening will be made. Letters for any of the company should be sent to Sidney, and the senders should see that they are properly provided with postage-stamps. A word about the minstrels, which are called Corbyn's Original Georgia Minstrels, will not be out of place. They were organized by Sheridan Corbyn at San Francisco, and consist of the following colored gentlemen: Lewis, Carter, Moore, Copeland, Perkins, Jackson, Lomax, Young, Espy and C. H. Lewis. They gave a performance here to-night in the Royal Hiawaiian Theatre before a crowded audience. The performance was very good. They also open in Sidney.

Respectfully yours, W. G. C.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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Sporting Chronology for 1876.

Astronomical Information for the Year.

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A List of Theatres Destroyed by Fire.

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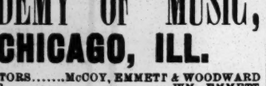

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